

GADGETSTM

MAGAZINE

THE PHILIPPINES' FIRST TECH L

HAVE A TECH-FILLED
HOLIDAY
WITH THIS YEAR'S
AWESOME
GEAR
AND GIZMOS

Laurence Houde
SANTA'S STUNNING
TECHIE HELPER CAME FOR A VISIT

THE *Wishlist* ISSUE

LENOVO
E31



CANON
POWERSHOT
SX610 HS



STARMOBILE
KNIGHT ELITE



PHP 150



REVIEWED:

Lenovo Phab Plus | Gigabyte R7 360 2GB OC Edition
Gigabyte G1 Sniper A88X | Philips 193V5 | Cherry Mobile Flare S4
D-Link AC3200 | Nissan NP300 Navara 2.5L 4x4 VL 7AT | Honda Click 125i

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Because action games aren't all about shooting baddies.



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Need a recap on the latest goings-
on in tech? Look no further.

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ASC Ref No. H108P093015H



Cherry Mobile Flare 4 and Flare S4 ▲ Smartphones

In the market for a more than capable smartphone that doesn't break the bank? Cherry Mobile offers good deals in the Flare 4 and Flare S4 that are quite hard to resist. Both smartphones share the same specs, but differ only by a bit design-wise. These powerful daily drivers sport chrome edges, giving the phones a premium and solid feel. Matching its sophisticated design and svelte form factor are equally striking displays. Both handsets come with 5-inch HD IPS displays with 720 x 1080 resolution perfect for watching movies or viewing pictures taken with their 13MP rear and 5MP front-facing shooters. Snap all you want and download apps freely with a generous 16GB onboard storage, which is expandable up to 32GB via microSD card. Running these smartphones are octa-core processors sporting clock speeds of 1.3GHz paired with 2GB of RAM. Furthermore, you also have a phone running Android Lollipop out of the box with Bluetooth 4.0, dual micro-SIM slots, and LTE capabilities. The Flare 4 comes with a 2100mAh power pack while the Flare S4 is built with a larger 2200mAh battery. The Flare 4 is available in pink, black, white, and gold, while the Flare S4 comes in white gold, white silver, black silver, and black, all with textured backs.

PHP 4,999



◀ Cherry Mobile Flare S4 Plus Smartphone

The Flare S4 Plus is a definite boon for road warriors who resort to multimedia content for entertainment during their daily commutes. Coming with a stunning 5.5-inch Full HD OGS display and a 1080 x 1920 resolution, this pretty handset isn't only about aesthetics. In the heart of the Flare S4 Plus is an octa-core processor clocking at 1.3GHz complemented with 3GB of RAM. Out of the box, it runs Android Lollipop 5.1 and has a battery capacity of 2800mAh. On top of that, you also have 16GB of storage that can be expanded up to 64GB via a microSD card. To satisfy your inner shutter bug, you have two cameras: a 16MP BSI camera on the rear; and an 8MP BSI camera up front. As for your connectivity needs, the S4 Plus comes with Wi-Fi, Bluetooth 4.0, GPS/A-GPS navigation, and LTE connectivity. The Flare S4 Plus comes in white, black, gold, and gray.

PHP 7,999

Alcatel OneTouch Flash 2 ► Smartphone

After the hotcake extravaganza that was the original Flash Plus, Alcatel has released the Flash 2, a much more premium, mid-range smartphone with a price tag that won't burn a hole in your wallet. It features a 1.3GHz octa-core Mediatek MT6753 processor paired with 2GB of RAM and 16GB of expandable storage. Preserving your moments are 13MP rear and 5MP front cameras—both with flash—with your shots viewable through the 5-inch HD IPS screen. All its features and innards are juiced up by a 3000mAh Li-Ion battery pack. The best part about it? It runs Android 5.1 Lollipop out of the box with, get this, the stock user interface. The Flash 2 is available in colors volcanic grey and mica white.

PHP 6,190



◀ Acer Liquid M220 Smartphone

A smartphone that will appeal to both budget-conscious and always-on-the-go consumers, the Acer Liquid M220 is a 4-inch handset that runs Windows 8.1 and is upgradeable to Windows 10 over-the-air. This productivity tool is not only performance-centric, it also shines in terms of design. Its form factor is inspired by Thai silk making for a textile finish that gives off a sophisticated feel. This element is not only there to increase aesthetics, it also improves grip so that it won't easily slip from the user's hand. As for the hardware, the Acer Liquid M220 offers a Qualcomm Snapdragon 200 chipset containing a dual-core 1.2GHz Cortex-A7 processor. Its power is further boosted by its 4GB internal memory and 512MB RAM making for a great workhorse at its price point. Acer has also thrown a vivid 4-inch display with 233ppi screen resolution, 5MP main camera (with autofocus and LED flash), 2MP front-facing camera, and microSD and dual SIM slots into the awesome package.

PHP 2,490



◀ **Lenovo Vibe P1** Smartphone

For consumers who are always on the go, the Vibe P1 is a 5.5-inch smartphone that will keep you connected all day without giving you worries of running out of juice at an inopportune time. It sports technologies such as a massive 5000mAh battery, OneKey Power Saver, and Rocket Charge making the P1 a great choice for those always up and about, as well as a boon for heavy multimedia users. Also thanks to the P1's Wi-Fi boost, users get to enjoy ultra-fast internet speeds and stronger connections wherever 5G Wi-Fi connections are available. One of the highlights of this phone's spec sheet is a Qualcomm Snapdragon 64-bit octa-core processor that allows it to run smoothly, no matter the tasks thrown at it. Also, the P1 comes with NFC and a fingerprint reader for added connectivity and security.

Sony Xperia M5 ▶ Smartphone

Go places full of confidence with the reliable Sony Xperia M5 in your pocket. Spilled coffee on the M5? Just rinse it off under the tap. Carrying an IP65/68 waterproof rating, the M5 is guaranteed to weather anything that involves accidental or intentional splashing. It comes with a 5-inch vivid 1080p display with Sony's Bravia technology also seen in their TVs and a 64-bit, 2.0GHz octa-core chipset paired with 3GB of RAM making for a smartphone experience that's truly remarkable. On top of that, you also have an Android 5.0 Lollipop device with a 2600mAh battery, 16GB of internal storage, microSD slot, and dual cameras out of the box. There's a 21.5MP snapper on the rear that features an f/2.2 aperture and a 0.25-second hybrid autofocus that can snap photos faster than you can say "cheese." Meanwhile, its front snapper shines with 13MP, giving you sharp and life-like selfies. With the Xperia M5, you are ready for the unexpected.

PHP 21,990





◀ Casio G-Shock MRG-G1000 Wristwatch

Precision-crafted to the smallest detail, the G-Shock MRG-G1000 is a premium wristwatch with high-end features that allow its wearers to be on time right down to the millisecond. Its gem is a hybrid solar-powered timekeeping system that uses GPS signals and radio waves to calibrate the time wherever you are with just a press of a button. As for aesthetics, the outer case is molded from lightweight and rust-resistant titanium polished with the Sallaz technique, while the face is topped with anti-reflective and scratch-resistant sapphire glass. The whole watch is also shock- and water-resistant, ensuring you a dependable timekeeper fit for a king.

PHP 149,995 (MRG-G1000B)

PHP 129,995 (MRG-G1000D)

Casio G-Shock GulfMaster GWN-1000 ▶ Wristwatch

Today's weather is more unpredictable than ever before. One moment you could be under the sun enjoying the salty sea breeze, then the next you're being whipped around by hurricane-force winds. While the G-Shock GulfMaster won't turn you into a human weather station, it can help you anticipate what's coming thanks to its atmospheric pressure sensor and tide graph. The watch's hands help keep track of pressure changes, while also indicating which way north is so you always have your bearing. Its wading capacity is rated for up to 200m, with LED lights helping illuminate the face in the darkest depths. The GulfMaster just begs you to take the plunge.

PHP 24,995





◀ Kata Box Android Box

Turn your boring, ordinary television into an entertainment powerhouse with the sleek yet powerful Kata Box. Featuring a 1.5GHz processor, 1GB RAM, 8GB internal storage, 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi, Ethernet, and HDMI interface, this Android 4.4 KitKat device allows you to not only enjoy your staple of digital channels, but to also relish in games and apps in huge-screen glory. Completing the smart experience are Kata's additional accessories—a controller, wireless keyboard and mouse, and an HDMI to VGA converter—to really give users a complete plug-and-play computing experience.

PHP 2,999

Sphero BB-8 ▶ App-enabled Droid

This insanely cute toy is the miniaturized counterpart of BB-8, the newest droid to be introduced into the *Star Wars* universe via the upcoming *The Force Awakens* epic. This tiny BB-8 is composed of two parts—the head and body—both made from sturdy polycarbonate, controllable via Sphero's accompanying Bluetooth app available for iOS and Android devices. BB-8 can roam around manually or automatically at up to 7ft/s; and can also "project" holograms through augmented reality on your phone's screen. All it requires is a two hours charge on its pad, and it'll be good for an hour of play time. Yep. This is definitely the droid *Star Wars* fans have been waiting for.

PHP 12,499.75





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The Moto 360 Collection ► Smartwatches

Having just acquired the brand, Lenovo further extends Motorola's leadership in the wearable tech space, as well as sets the bar for modern timepieces with the new Moto 360 Collection. With over 300 design possibilities via Moto Maker, the new Moto 360 collection suits various personal styles. Customers can create a design according to their preference from materials such as genuine Horween leather or stainless steel. The new collection also offers case sizes in classic, 46mm, and now 42mm. Apart from a sophisticated design, the Moto 360 is powered by Android Wear and is Wi-Fi enabled, keeping you connected, wherever, while it sits snugly on your wrist. Some of the apps available in this collection are Motorola's health and wellness app, Moto Body, and a lot more Android Wear apps from Google Play. The new collection also include upgrades such as a refined case design with extended lugs for improved fit, new Moto 360 Sport for fitness enthusiasts with GPS and incredibly accurate heart rate sensors, AnyLight Display that proves useful even under the bright sunlight, a women's line, and improved battery life.



◀ Altec Lansing Orbit Bluetooth Speakers

The fifth iteration of the Orbit packs a mean punch with its high-definition sound and well-crafted, travel-friendly package. This speaker delivers high quality, powerful sound despite its small and compact size thanks to an integrated DSP audio enhancement technology. Altec Lansing crammed various awesome features in the Orbit such as a microphone for clear hands free communication, voice confirmation, aux in jack, carabiner hook, ergonomically laid out control buttons, and up to 6 hours of battery life making for one value-for-money speaker that is built to last.

PHP 1,425



◀ Altec Lansing LifeJacket 2 Bluetooth Speakers

Bring your music with you, anywhere, with the LifeJacket 2. This adventure-ready Bluetooth speaker features great sound quality, an on-board microphone for hands-free communication, voice recognition, NFC support, an IP67 rating, up to 16 hours of music playback, and a powerbank function, housed in one extra-tough exterior. It also comes with a universal mount, so you can take it while biking, surfing, snowboarding, or wherever your adventures end up. In the event that it falls off your surfboard, you can be sure that it won't sink in the abyss as it can float in water. What makes this speaker interesting is its fortified build that allows it to withstand the roughest handling. If it gets run over by a car, it would still be able to play music. That's how durable the LifeJacket 2 is.

PHP 7,250

Altec Lansing Jacket H20 ▶ Bluetooth Speakers

The Jacket H20 features a sleeker design compared to its distant sibling, the LifeJacket 2. It comes in a svelte, compact form factor that is still IP67 rated and can float in water. The Jacket H20 boasts features such as up to 8 hours of non-stop music playback, Bluetooth connectivity, a built-in microphone, aux port, and pure Altec Lansing sound. What's more, the Jacket H20 is integrated with voice control system making it possible to answer or decline calls and pair with your Bluetooth-enabled devices without touching the speaker itself.

PHP 3,995



Pioneer GM-D9605 ► Amplifier

Let the neighborhood know you're rolling down the block with the Pioneer GM-D9605 car amplifier. With a tiny body allowing it to fit anywhere, this amp pumps out a maximum 2000 watts with the A and B channels doling out 75 watts x4 (RMS) and the subwoofer rated at a 350 watt output. That punchiness is complemented by variable crossover networks for more control; block terminals for easier installation; and direct wire contact for less impedance. Along with a variable low pass filter and Bass Boost remote, the GM-D9607 nails highs and lows with reckless abandon.



Pioneer AVH-X1850DVD ▲ Multimedia Receiver

Are your road trips a little bland? Sick of hearing just the low hum of your engine every time you're driving somewhere? Add a little spice to your ride with the Pioneer AVH-X1850DVD, a receiver that brings FLAC lossless audio support, wide multimedia compatibility, and ease of use to reignite the flame between you and your vehicle. Its face is a resistive touchscreen allowing quick navigation of its improved UI. Smartphone connectivity has also been tweaked, giving it compatibility with even more apps such as *Spotify*, *AppRadio Mode*, and *AppRadio Live*. You can also watch TV on the display thanks to its long-range receiver. With this in tow, you'll surely look forward to more time behind the wheel.



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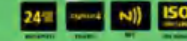
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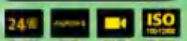
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◀ **Lenovo S500** Desktop

Go big on performance without sacrificing precious desk real estate with the small form factor Lenovo S500. While it's 26-percent smaller than most prebuilt SFF towers, it still packs some boom with up to a fourth generation Intel Core i7 processor, up to 16GB of RAM, a variety of storage options including a 500GB HDD and a 192GB SSD, and a whole host of features sure to please SMEs. These include Lenovo's OneKey Recovery, Bluetooth Lock, InstantGo, Lenovo ShareIt, Lenovo Solution Center, and Wi-Fi 802.11 b/g/n/ac for seamless connectivity. It's a truly productive employee you'd love to see day in and day out.

PHP 26,000

Lenovo E31 ▶ Laptop

Built for the rigors of the modern workplace, the Lenovo E31 is a notebook that's style, power, and usability rolled into one 0.8-inch thick and 1.59kg package. It's equipped with an Intel Core i7 Broadwell processor, up to 8GB of RAM, up to 1TB of HDD storage, either an 8GB hybrid HDD or 256GB SSD; Dolby-certified stereo speakers, a battery good for up to five hours of up time, Wi-Fi 802.11 a/c, Bluetooth 4.0, two USB 3.0 ports, VGA and HDMI outputs, and a 4-in-1 card reader. It also has a 720p HD webcam and a 13.3-inch FHD screen for crystal clear conference calls. It runs on Windows 8.1 out of the box and may also come with an optional fingerprint reader for the ultimate security solution for your sensitive files.

PHP 30,990





◀ Panasonic WV-SW559 Surveillance Camera

Keep you and yours safe with this vandal-resistant dome surveillance camera from Panasonic. Featuring an IP66-rated water- and dust-resistant shell, the WV-SW559 is able of capturing up to 1080p video with its 2.8-10mm 3.6x varifocal auto-iris lens ensuring every important area is clear and crisp. The on board UniPhier LSI processor allows for cropping, lower bandwidth storage, more VIQS zones, dual H.264 streaming capability and overall higher-level functionality. Moreover, it has face detection analytics, face super dynamic range, infrared-cut filter, 3D noise reduction, and Adaptive Black Stretch so faces are easily identifiable.



Haier K5000 ▲ Smart TV

The holidays give you the perfect weather to be a couch potato and snuggle under the blankets with your cats/family/significant other. To complete the experience, you'll need a great TV, such as the Haier K5000 LED Smart TV Series. With its LED edge-lit backlighting, wide viewing angles, and crystal clear images, the gloomy weather won't stop your cinematic viewing experience. Once you've gotten too cozy to get up and surf the 'net, the Haier K5000 LED Smart TV Series has you covered with its easy-access YouTube button for a quick online video fix, and a web browser for email and social media. This amazing TV is available in 32-, 40-, 50-, and 55-inch screen sizes.

Halo Sebastian ►

Multipurpose Case

The Halo Sebastian is a versatile case that can house your phone or a compact camera. It comes with a sleek, clean design that is simple but embellished with modern fabric and prints. You can choose to hang it around your neck, clip it on your belt, or hook it to your bag for fuss-free travels.

PHP 249



◀ Halo Stanley

Phone Pouch

Grab, slip, and go! For anyone who has an active and always up and about lifestyle, the Halo Stanley is for you. This pouch can house two gadgets, each in a separate compartment, secured by easy sliding zippers. The Stanley is made of high-quality water resistant material, making sure that your gadgets are safe in the event it gets splashed on. On its back are a belt strap and carabiner hook for easy portability, and an adjustable neck string is also included.

PHP 349

Halo Ram ►

Bag

Travel light with your valuables safely intact in a stylish sling bag like the Halo Ram. Ideal for outdoor travels or indoor weekend escapades, this bag secures your belongings in a main compartment big enough to hold your phone, tablet, wallet, and other essentials. To minimize clutter, there are two zippered compartments you can use to put small documents or coins in. There is also an open pocket on its rear for quickly slipping in other little stuff you might need to grab when on the go.

PHP 695



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- Clear Vision
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Off Timer
- Eco Mode
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA, MHL, HDMI, DP
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080

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19.5"

E2070SWN

Key Features

- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- LED Panel: Hg Free
- 16.7 Million Colors
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- e-Saver
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA
- TN Panel
- HD - 1600x900



19.53"

M2060SWD

Key Features

- FullHD MVA Panel
- LED Panel: Hg Free
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Hair-Line Texture
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Eco Mode
- e-Saver
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA, DVI
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080



20.7"

E2180SWN

Key Features

- FHD 1920x1080 High Resolution
- Flicker Free Backlight Technology
- Clear Vision
- e-Saver
- TFT Panel
- VGA
- Wall Bracket: Yes



21.5"

E2250SWDN

Key Features

- Green LED Monitor
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Eco mode
- Off Timer
- 16.7 Million of Colors
- Dynamic Colour Boost (DCB)
- Direct Insert for easy plug-in
- Wall Mount: Yes
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080
- TFT Panel



21.5"

E2270SWDN

Key Features

- LED Panel: Hg Free
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- e-Saver
- 16.7 Million Colors
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- VGA
- HD - 1920 x 1080
- TN Panel



23.6"

M2461FWH

Key Features

- Clear Vision
- e-Saver
- Dynamic Contrast Ratio (DCR)
- Ultra Low Power Consumption
- Eco Mode
- Multimedia-Ready with HDMI Input
- Off Timer
- Energy Star
- Wall Bracket: Yes
- MVA Panel
- VGA, HDMI
- Full HD - 1920 x 1080



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Gigabyte R7 360 2GB OC Edition

Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

AMD refreshed the entire lineup of Radeon cards earlier this year in the hopes of gaining the PC Master Race's nod of approval. We reviewed the middling R7 370 last month saying that it was a true value-for-money contender. This time, we took the Gigabyte R7 360 OC Edition out for a spin to see if AMD managed to achieve the same with their entry-level graphics processor.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Though it's targeted as a low tier card, the Gigabyte R7 360 tries to offer gamers a cooler "I'm not a cheapo" look with its edgy black shroud and 90mm 11-bladed fan. The blades have triangular edges and feature five 3D stripe curves each to increase air flow by as much as 23-percent.

Further helping this particular R7 360 dissipate heat is a circular aluminum heatsink with fins radiating out from the GPU direct contact point. As with all open-air solutions, the card's shroud is open at the top, bottom, and side for greater cooling capability.

Save for the fancy shroud, the card is pretty barebones. Sure there's the PCIe 3.0 finger along the bottom edge and the display outputs as well as the exhaust grille on the left, but besides those, you'd only see caps, MOSFETs, and chokes dotted all around the naked PCB.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Stream Processors: 768
Core Speed: 1200MHz
VRAM: 2GB GDDR5 VRAM
Memory Speed: 1625MHz
Memory Bus: 128-bit
Memory Bandwidth: 104GB/s
Power Requirement: 100W, 6-pin PCIe power connector required
Output: Dual link DVI-I; dual link DVI-D; HDMI; Display Port
Dimensions: Dual slot, 159 x 127 x 42mm (L x W x H)

What's Hot:

- Small form factor
- Decent clock out of the box

What's Not:

- Try-hard shroud
- Won't properly drive higher resolution monitors

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The heart of the AMD Radeon R7 360 is the 28nm Tobago Pro graphics core with 768 stream processors originally running at the 1050MHz configuration, but since the review unit is Gigabyte factory overclocked, it runs at a swifter 1200MHz out of the box. It's paired with 2GB of GDDR5 VRAM with an effective clock of 6500MHz. It's able to process a total 104GB/s with its 128-bit wide memory bus.

If those specs give you *déjà vu*, that's because those are almost exactly the same figures found on this card's predecessor, the R7 260. The only difference between the two is the newer and slightly faster GPU aboard the R7 360.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

And now onto the most exciting (or least exciting, depending on how you feel about numbers) part of every PC hardware review ever: the benchmarks. The tests were done on a rig where the card was paired with an Intel Core i5-4460 clocked at 3.2GHz boosting up to 3.4GHz; 8GB of DDR3 memory humming along at 1333MHz; and with a display resolution of 900p.

Unsurprisingly, it performed just a notch below the higher-tiered AMD R7 370 we reviewed last month. It scored 1133 in *Unigine Valley's* extreme preset with everything at ultra and with x8 antialiasing. It hit a peak 48fps and a low 16fps while averaging around 27fps in the benchmarking utility.

The Gigabyte R7 360 also performed well in games like *NBA 2K15* and *Counter Strike: Global Offensive* averaging 61fps in the former and 180fps in the latter, both at maximum settings. Rest assured that as long as you're playing a title that's quite tame in the graphics department, this card will run it smoothly.

Meanwhile, going for the more demanding *Middle Earth: Shadow of Mordor* had the card quickly gasping for air. While it settled in at around 44fps—hitting a low 30fps and high 62fps—using max settings, FXAA, depth of field, and tessellation, the R7 360 struggled with a bit of input lag. The action also got quite choppy during heated battles. Going from a relatively okay framerate then dropping down to peasantly figures is not fun, especially when you're trying to accomplish some mission objectives.

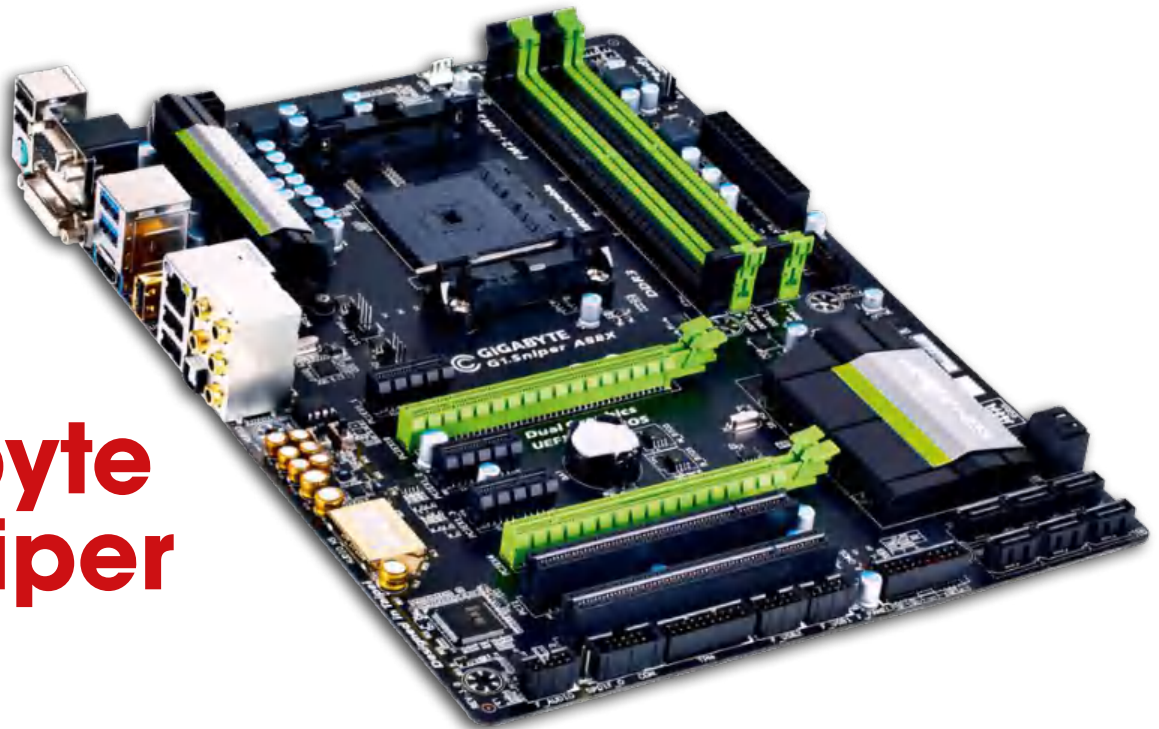
VALUE ★★★★★

Gigabyte's take on the R7 360 sells for as low as PHP 5,580, putting it smack in the middle of the budget entry-level graphics card category. While it performs well in most situations, giving credence to the old cliché "you get what you pay for," would I recommend it? If you're operating on a really tight budget where you just can't shell out more cash, then this card's an alright choice. However, if you can hold your purchase off for another month or so, you can save up and get something much better.

BOTTOMLINE

The AMD card of choice for really tight budget builds.





Gigabyte G1 Sniper A88X

Reviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

When it comes right down to it, AMD's Accelerated Processing Units (APUs) are the bangiest processors you can get for your buck. Slap it on some cheapo motherboard, install some RAM, plug everything into a decent PSU, and you're good to go. The Gigabyte G1 Sniper A88X is curiously expensive for such a chip that screams budget. Given that mobos don't affect processor and graphics card performance in any meaningful way, are the G1 Sniper's on board features enough to warrant its ticket price? We find out below.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Judging solely on design, the Gigabyte G1 Sniper A88X takes the proverbial cake. The PCB is a clean-looking matte black conservatively splashed with neon green accents on the second and fourth RAM slots, the two main PCIe slots, the chipset heatsink, as well as the VRM sink—all characteristic marks of the brand's G1 series boards.

It has a pretty standard ATX layout, wherein the 8-pin supplementary CPU power rests at the top left while the 24-pin connector sits along the upper right edge next to the USB 3.0 header. The six SATA ports are laid out in two columns on the bottom right corner, while the front panel connectors, audio, and USB 2.0 headers are along the bottom edge. For system cooling, four fan headers are present around the fringes of the APU socket. Lastly, the rear I/O offerings are pretty standard, save for the gold-plated USB 2.0 port and audio jacks.

Lest I forget, this board lights up! LEDs running along some portions of the PCB will give your rig an awesome green glow.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The FM2+ socket takes in AMD's newest Kaveri APUs as well as the older FM2 APUs, with the input voltage cleaned by a pretty modest VRM setup. Meanwhile, the four DIMM slots are able to support a total of 64GB, with each individual RAM stick humming up to 2133MHz thanks to AMP and XMP support. Since the performance of an APU's GPU cores are highly dependent on allocated RAM amount and memory clock speeds, this RAM robustness is more than welcome.

The G1 Sniper is also CrossFire (but not SLI) compatible on the PCIe 3.0 and 2.0 slots, and if you're looking to stock up on expansion cards, you can simultaneously install two dual-slot graphics cards, two PCIe 1x devices, and one PCI card. Between the two high-speed lanes are Gigabyte's physical Dual BIOS chips.

One of the things that makes this motherboard special is its Amp-Up Audio driver with the Realtek ALC898 codec, a beast that performs almost just as well as most consumer DACs. To help maintain clean audio outputs, the driver is gold shielded and is sitting on top of an isolated PCB section to keep it away from electrical interference.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

The life and soul of a good APU system is in the MHz, and I was pleased that overclocking on Gigabyte's UEFI BIOS was straightforward. For those afraid of tinkering with the lowest firmware level, there is the bundled *EasyTune 6* utility which simplifies the process into button presses and sliders. Bumping the APU base frequency up to 4.4GHz rendered stable benchmarks. I didn't go any higher since it was only being air-cooled, but rest assured you could bump the frequency some more with adequate cooling.

VALUE ★★★★★

With tons of features you'd usually find on more expensive motherboards, the G1 Sniper A88X offers tons of headroom to grow your system in. It sells for as low as PHP 5,370.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Socket: FM2+/FM2
Chipset: AMD A88X
Memory: 4x DDR3 up to 2133MHz; AMP and XMP support; up to 64GB
Expansion Slots: PCIe 3.0 x16; PCIe 2.0 x4; 3x PCIe x1; 2x PCI slots;
External I/O Ports: PS/2; VGA, dual link DVI-D, HDMI; 2x USB 3.0; 5x audio ports; 1x optical S/PDIF Out
Internal Connectors: 4x system fan headers; front panel headers; Clear CMOS jumper; 2x USB 3.0; 4x USB 2.0
Storage Devices: 8x SATA 6Gb/s; support for RAID 0, RAID 1, RAID 5, RAID 10, and JBOD
Onboard Audio: Realtek ALC898; 7.1 channel
Onboard LAN: Realtek 10/100/1000Mbps
Features: Gigabyte UEFI Dual Bios; Ultra Durable 4 Plus components; Amp-Up Audio; Audio Noise Guard with LED path lighting; 2-way AMD CrossFire; AMD Dual Graphics
Form Factor: ATX
Dimensions: 12- x 8.9-inches

What's Hot:

- Feature-rich
- Smexy color scheme
- Impressive audio driver

What's Not:

- Only four SATA cables included in the box
- Limited number of fan headers

BOTTOMLINE

Money well spent!



Philips 193V

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

Monitors are important. If you don't believe us, try writing a dissertation with just your CPU, keyboard, and mouse. We did just that, which is why we're in this line of work. Philips has spent a long time working on displays, and some of our more recent favorites are actually from this brand. Today, we take a look at the 193V: a simple little 19-inch deal that has very little flash. Curious to see if it delivers where it counts? Read on and find out.

DESIGN ★★★★★

There's not a lot going on with this particular model from Philips. The reasonably large 19-inch screen is surrounded by an acceptably thin bezel that doesn't distract the viewer from the image being displayed on-screen. There are hardly any controls to speak of. The only way to interact with the device is through the use of a single button on the lower right corner of the display. This single button serves as the power button, menu button, and the main means to cycle through each of the menus, as well as increase or decrease settings. Inputs on the monitor are equally minimalistic, with a single VGA port, and an HDMI port for good measure. AC power goes straight into the monitor, without the need for an external power brick. While relatively plain, the inclusion of an HDMI port is great, and allows you to use it as an all-purpose display.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

While simple, the 193V is hardly bare. It has an LED display, allowing it to be thin, light, and appropriately viewable. The screen has a response time of 5ms, which is par for the course. It also has a resolution of 1366 x 768 which should be more than sufficient for a screen this size. It has a weight of 2kg, and is just over 6.5 inches deep, thanks to the base. If you choose to wall mount, it's a mere two inches deep. The screen has a contrast ratio of 700:1, and is capable of displaying 16.7 million colors.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Philips has always made great panels, and the 193V is no exception. Setup was dead easy. Plug in the power, hook up the screen to your source, and you're off.



Getting your desired settings, however, is a little more difficult. A single button is all you have to cycle through the menus and settings, so you're going to have to be a little patient to say the least. Tapping once brings up a list of settings, and tapping again cycles through them. To select a particular menu item, you have to cycle through each, stop at the one you want, and wait. This selects it, and allows you to then use that same button to increase the value of that menu option. It's a good thing you're likely only going to have to do this once.

Image quality on this thing is great. LED panels have always been fantastic, with bright images that are nice and crisp. Viewing angles on the display are reasonably wide, but since you can't really adjust the tilt on this model, you might have to get creative to find that sweet spot.

Being one of the more basic models, I wasn't expecting a whole lot from it, but once I fired it up and got around to watching movies and playing games, I was actually quite impressed. Even with some of the more action-oriented games, it had no difficulty keeping up with the pace of the frames. Movie-watching was equally pleasant. While it might not have the same contrast ratio or size of a dedicated TV, it's nice and bright, the colors are spot-on, and details are wonderfully clear.

One of the other things I was quite pleased with was the size and weight of the device. I don't have a lot of desk space to spare, so a small footprint and low weight come very appreciated. Wall-mounting is also a great option for those with no space to spare. I can totally see this rigged up with an HDMI pocket PC or some other small form-factor device for a tiny, general use computer that's barely any larger than just the screen you view. Consider the possibilities

of Windows 10 Continuum-enabled devices and maybe you might suddenly have room for a nice little monitor in your collection.

VALUE ★★★★★

Here's the best part about the display. For all the trouble a single button might bring, converted to local currency, it comes out at about PHP 6,000. That's really quite a steal. If you have any need for a second display, or a primary display for a secondary device, or if you need to upgrade your current screen without having to shell out a substantial amount, this is a great answer to your problem.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Display type: LED-backlit LCD
Aspect Ratio: 16:9
Brightness: 200cd/sqm
Contrast Ratio: 700:1
Response time: 5ms
Colors: 16.7 million colors
Inputs: VGA, HDMI
Dimensions: 43.7 x 17 x 33.8cm
Weight: 2.15kg

What's Hot:

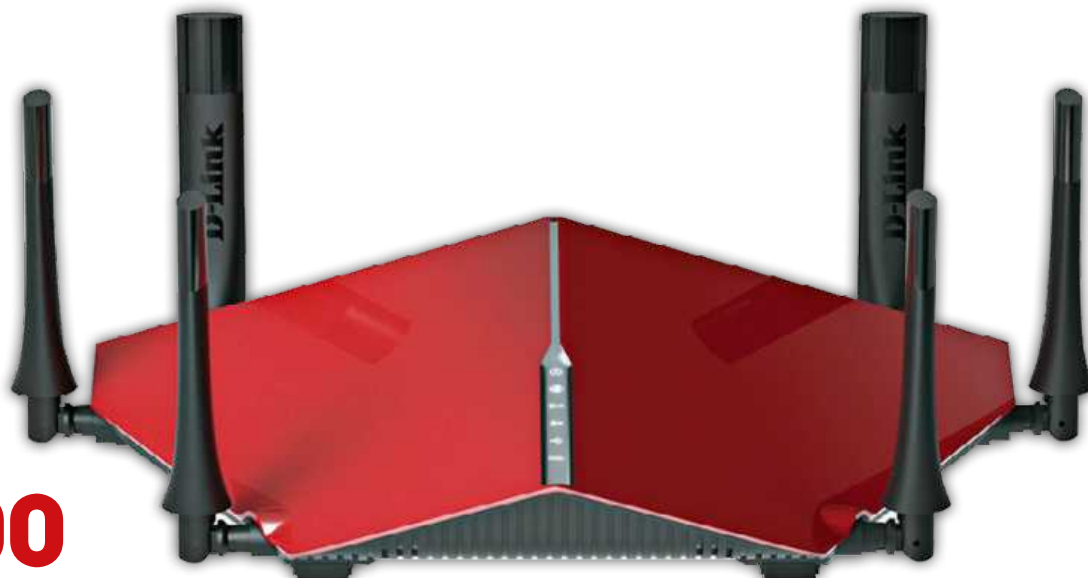
- Great picture quality
- Small footprint

What's Not:

- Rather basic

BOTTOMLINE

The fact that it's so affordable and is a great performer more than makes up for the few shortcomings it might have.



D-Link AC3200

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

At the heart of practically every network now is a good wireless router. With one of these, you can do things that were practically magic just a few years ago: stream media, connect to all of human knowledge, transfer files, and everything in between. You might think that any old router can do that job, and you'd be right, but only insofar as you can call a box with four wheels a car. If you really want the best experience out there, you're going to have to shell out a bit for a decent router, and they don't get much better than the D-Link AC3200.

DESIGN ★★★★★

If you were expecting a sedate black box, you're going to be sorely disappointed. This baby looks like it means business. With an extremely eye-catching red finish, unusual shape, and loads of antennae, this thing seems like it would be more in place on the deck of a sci-fi set than a current-era home.

It manages to be edgy without looking garish, and is all sorts of awesome to look at. There is an interesting set of diamond cutouts in the back for aesthetic purposes, and a vent up front, just below the strip along which indicator lights lie. I've never used the word "awesome" to describe how a router looks until now, but it's wholly appropriate in this case.

Along all dimensions, it is a little large, at 15.23 x 9.73 x 4.7 inches, so you're going to have to give it some room, but it's really a nice piece of hardware, so you'll have to resist the urge to turn it into some sort of centerpiece.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

Where do we start? The AC3200 supports the 802.11a/g/n/ac standards, so you get broad compatibility across an extremely wide array of devices. You have four LAN ports on the back, a USB 3.0 port for storage, a USB 2.0 port for sharing a printer, and a WPS button for painless setup. Six antennas stick out from either side of the device for maximum wireless coverage. It has an external power brick that is itself a little large, but manageable.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

A wireless router isn't useful if it isn't more than a pretty face, so to give it the workout necessary to test it, I hooked it up to the office network and played around. Setup was predictably easy. Just plug in all the necessary wires, connect, and you're off.

The config page is simple to navigate, and poking around to find the settings that needed changing was hardly a chore. Once I got the SSID and password set up, I connected all my devices and got to work.

My laptop, phones, and tablets all connected with no problem, from old to new devices. Range was likewise not a problem. While we don't have a particularly large office, concrete walls can sometimes make the signal weak in some spots. This wasn't a problem for the tri-band AC3200. Two 5GHz and a single 2.4GHz radios make sure every spot is covered for every device. The router then automatically connects each device to the appropriate band, to give each one the best possible experience. It looks great on paper, and in practice, actually seems to work. While far from a scientific test, the days it was up were regular workdays, with average load, and those devices on the router did actually seem to perform a little better with streaming and transfers, as well as slightly better when loading webpages. I attribute that to the router's smart traffic prioritization kicking in and optimizing the connection across the devices I had on. There were times I felt the router was smarter than some of the gadgets we had connected to it. It's an odd thing to realize.

Large-format video streaming and gaming were likewise smooth and lag-free. While the overall experience for something like online gaming will mostly come down to the connection you have from your ISP, it's nice to know this particular router can handle as fast a connection as you can throw at it. Local network tasks are also much faster, owing to the device's 1GHz dual-core processor.

The USB port worked as promised. I plugged in an external HDD choc-full of movies and shows in 4K, streamed it to various devices, and found myself killing time like it was nobody's business. You can finally leave that huge drive in one place and still enjoy content anywhere on your network, without

annoying lag or stutter. It even comes with its own app for that purpose.

VALUE ★★★★★

While the AC3200 isn't cheap at PHP 16,000, it's worth every Peso if you are really serious about having the most robust network possible. It's fast, solid, and has more features than you have ever seen in a router before. It behaves every bit as fast as it looks, and is worth the price of admission.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Ports: Four 10/100/1000 Gigabit LAN ports, 10/100/1000 Gigabit WAN port
USB Ports: one USB 3.0, one USB 2.0
Wi-Fi Standards: IEEE 802.11a/n/g/a, 802.3/u
Dimensions: 15.23 x 9.73 x 4.7 inches
Power: 100 to 240V AC, 50/60 Hz

What's Hot:

- So many features
- Awesome design
- Fast performance

What's Not:

- If you don't need all the features, it's a little pricey

BOTTOMLINE

I can't look at our old router the same way again.

Lenovo Phab Plus

Reviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos



I have always been a fan of smartphones with big displays—we know most people are, too—and my 5.7-inch daily driver can attest to that. While I find my smartphone display rather ginormous at times, I was still quite taken aback when I first laid my eyes on the supersized Lenovo Phab Plus.

DESIGN ★★★★★

Ample screen real estate has in some way become a standard for premium smartphones since the launch of the first Samsung Galaxy Note. With the proliferation of multimedia content and graphic intensive applications, it comes as no surprise that consumers would want a better display to fix their eyes on. Lenovo knows this; which is why they created a phone not just well over the 5.5-inch screen territory, but much, much bigger.

Living up to the Plus in its name, this Lenovo handset is huge. Registering a 6.8-inch footprint, the Phab Plus somewhat gives you the impression of a sleek tablet. However, it fell 0.2-inch short.

Smartphones are intended to be used as daily drivers and though sometimes quite risky, we use it deliberately in public to kill time during our commutes. In the Phab Plus' case, I hesitated taking it out on the road as it tends to draw attention due to its monstrous size. However, once onlookers get a peek at it, they are captivated by the Phab Plus' solid build quality and svelte, metal finish.

It looks like a bigger version of the Lenovo S90 Sisley, which in truth bears a striking resemblance to a fruit brand flagship. Up front is the visually appealing display along with a receiver flanking the 5MP camera atop. At the bottom of the screen is an inch of bezel, but the three customary controls are on the display, which makes the former a waste. Lenovo could have placed capacitive keys on there or a home button for easier navigation, but why Lenovo kept it empty is another story we'll get on to later.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Dimensions: 188.6 x 96.6 x 7.6mm
OS: Android 5.0 Lollipop
Processor: 64-bit Qualcomm octa-core, 1.5GHz
Sound: 1.0cc sound chamber/Dolby Atmos
RAM: 2GB
Internal Storage: 32GB expandable up to 64GB via microSD
Cameras: 13MP auto-focus with dual LED flash rear, and 5MP front-facing
Battery: 3500mAh
Connectivity: Bluetooth 4.0, Wi-Fi 802.11, A-GPS, Glonass, LTE

What's Hot:

- Vivid display with punchy colors
- Nice premium build
- Fast charging

What's Not:

- Too big for a daily driver

Running your hand around the Phab Plus gives you the usuals: volume rocker and power/lock button on the one side, pop-up dual-SIM/microSD (micro- and nano-SIM compatible) slots on the other, headphone jack, and micro-USB port at the bottom. On its rear are the chrome Lenovo emblem, antenna bands—one above and the other placed at the bottom—speaker grille occupying a good chunk of space atop, a hidden anti-noise microphone within the speaker, and main 13MP camera and Dual LED flash located at the leftmost edge of the speaker section.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

The definite scene-stealer in the Phab Plus is its 1080 x 1920 IPS display with 324ppi pixel density that injects every content you view with punchy real-life colors, image sharpness, and deep blacks. This striking feature paired with its massive size further solidifies the Phab Plus' main purpose: to entertain.

Inside its slim metal chassis is a Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 octa-core processor clocking in at 1.5GHz complemented by 2GB of RAM. This combination makes for a slate that performs exceedingly, just above what you'd expect from a mid-ranger and could handle tasks rather fine. We had it run *AnTuTu Benchmark* and it registered 31752, which is quite high compared to other devices in its class. This should guarantee you a snappy and fluid performance, right until you stuff it with a myriad of multimedia content.

To round off the hardware section is its impressive Dolby Atmos infused speakers. Leveraging on this sound system found in cinemas makes for a great movie and series binge-watching companion.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★

Probably the main issue consumers will encounter with the Phab Plus is its main selling point: its huge build. "It's just impossible to use it with just one hand." Always a step ahead, Lenovo claims that the Phab Plus is fully optimized even for one-handed use. How? You can shrink the screen, adjust it to your liking, and have it slide where your hand is, automatically. To enable this function is easy; just go to the settings, tap on the feature tab, and tick the right options. Once the Screen Shrink feature is activated, just draw the letter "C" anywhere on the screen and your whole screen will snap into a smaller version you can alter to how you like it to appear. This brings us back to why the bottom bezel doesn't carry the three capacitive

controls usually found in other devices. It defeats the purpose of its one-handed feature.

Surprisingly, the Phab Plus is mostly vanilla Android, almost no colorful and gimmicky Vibe UI overlay. There are a few Lenovo-native apps though, but it really doesn't eat up much of the phone's memory.

Now onto the cameras, this phablet comes furnished with 13MP rear and 5MP front snappers which is complemented by a Lenovo camera app. The camera interface features a variety of shooting modes which include Action Shot, Smart Reader, Night Mode, HDR Mode, Panorama, and 1080p video recording. You can also pick among modes which best matches the background scenery—e.g. sunset, sports, landscape, beach, snow, etc. There's also a setting tab where you can tinker with controls such as ISO, exposure, white balance, denoiser, and whatnot to suffice the average shutterbug. The image output is just fine, nothing extraordinary, but definitely better than most in the 13MP smartphone camera category.

Powering this mammoth is a hefty 3500mAh battery capacity that was quite impressive. Despite the size of the Phab Plus, it can last up to two days with moderate use. It's also fast to top up. In just around 20 minutes, you'll already have at least 50-percent of juice.

VALUE ★★★★★

The Phab Plus, available in gunmetal grey and honey gold, sells for only PHP 14,999—quite a deal for a phone with a huge, full HD display, snappy processor, dual cameras, LTE support, and hefty battery.

BOTTOMLINE

It presents a blend of the desirable qualities of a handy smartphone and the comforting display size of a tablet in one inexpensive package.

Cherry Mobile Flare S4

Reviewed by Mia Carisse Barrientos

Cherry Mobile has been shaking the local smartphone scene with its many power-packed releases that sport incredibly affordable price tags since its establishment in the country. The company is setting the bar once again with the launch of its newest smartphones under its flagship Flare nameplate. We got our hands on one of the models, the Flare S4, and here's how it fared.

DESIGN ★★★★★☆

I must say I was quite impressed when I first laid my eyes upon the Flare S4. It's so unusual to see a phone, entry-level priced, get so much premium qualities. Chrome is beautifully wrapped around the Flare S4's slender edges, with every corner curved for better handling. It has a plastic back panel that though might seem flimsy, gives off a refined vibe with its textured finish. Flip the phone to the front and you will see a Dragon Trail glass protected display faintly lifted for a better viewing experience.

Standard buttons are present in the Flare S4. Along with the display up front are the receiver, sensor, and camera located on top, while just right at the bottom of the screen are three capacitive navigation keys. On the right side is a volume rocker sitting next to a power/lock button that when pressed have good response. An audio jack sits atop, on the far left side, surrounded by two thin white strips. The left side is free of buttons, while you can find the microUSB slot at the bottom. Turn it on its back and you will be greeted by the main camera, with an accompanying LED flash underneath. Removing the back panel will reveal a hefty battery, dual microSIM slots, and slot for a microSD card.

HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

The Cherry Mobile Flare S4 prides itself in its specs that would have anyone double take after seeing its sticker price. A powerful 1.3GHz octa-core processor is the main driving force of the Flare S4. Throw in 2GB of RAM and you have a capable daily driver that can handle easy to intense tasks without a hitch.

It has a 5-inch HD IPS display with 1280 x 720 resolution that offers punchy colors and great viewing angles. Playing graphic-intensive games on it offered a visual feast, immersing you right into the action with its vivid display of colors.



You also have a 2200mAh battery that, with moderate use, is sufficient for at least a day away from the wall socket. There are also two cameras at your disposal. The 13MP main camera offers decent photo quality. With just the right tweak in the settings and plenty of light, it could perform impeccably. Its front-facing 5MP camera, on the other hand, was quite a disappointment; you could barely see yourself in poorly-lit areas and appear a bit posterized, save for when you are outdoors or in well-lit places, where the front camera would shine. But, you can't really have it all.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

Booting up the Flare S4 takes just a few seconds. Powering it up right out of the box, you will have to sort through various settings—including a Cherry Mobile warranty registration—before you can fully use the phone. It uses stock Android, which is great, but there are still a few Cherry Mobile native apps that don't take up much of the phone's memory.

Cherry Mobile's vision for the Flare series is quite commendable; serve the market with powerful and good-looking phones that are truly bang for the buck. However, there are several issues you just can't look over. The phone heats up pretty quickly and it crashes from time to time, all of which are to a certain extent frustrating knowing that Cherry Mobile can do better. But then again, the phone just came out and most probably the company will be able to provide resolution for most of the phone's problems in time.

But do know that these issues aren't that much of a concern if you look at the Flare S4 as a whole. The display is very responsive, surfing the Internet is fast and efficient depending on your connection, calls are clear, and you can customize your phone to your liking since it runs Android.

VALUE ★★★★★☆

It's rare to see a smartphone in the market today that includes an octa-core processor, 2GB RM, Dragon Trail glass protection, LTE capability, and 13MP camera in its spec sheet and is offered at PHP 4,999. But Cherry Mobile dared to change the game with its true value for money offering.

BOTTOMLINE

In the market for a more than capable smartphone to reward yourself this Christmas? The bang for the buck Flare S4 might just be what you are after.

SPECIFICATIONS:

Processor: 1.3GHz MediaTek MT6753 octa-core
RAM: 2GB
Display: 5-inch HD IPS display, Dragon Trail glass protection, 1280 x 720 resolution
Storage: 16GB internal memory expandable up to 32GB via microSD
Cameras: 13MP rear with BSI, 5MP front with BSI
SIM: Dual, micro-SIM
Connectivity: 3G, LTE, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, GPS, A-GPS
Battery: 2200mAh
OS: Android 5.1 Lollipop

What's Hot:

- Premium, solid build
- LTE support

What's Not:

- Heats up quickly
- Cameras can do better

THE BEST OF 2015: PC HARDWARE AND NOTEBOOKS

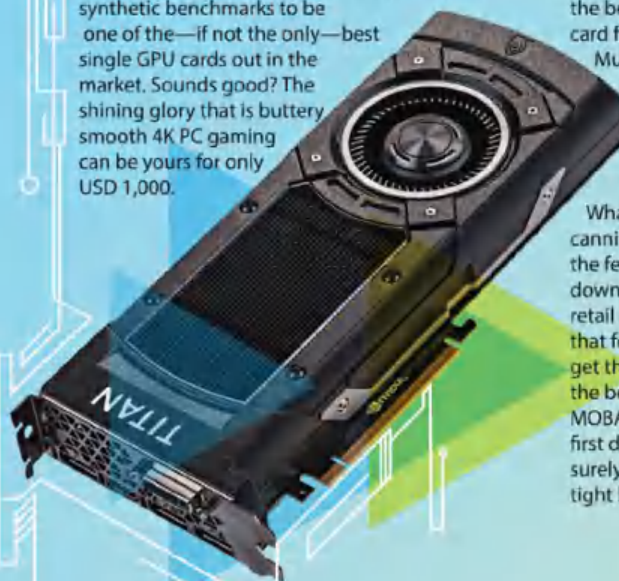
Words by Chris Noel Hidalgo

The world of desktops and notebooks had shakers a plenty this year, with the biggest names all offering the PC community new parts and products enough to overflow a Christmas wish list. We have below some of the more pertinent releases in the hardware industry, so sit back, relax, read on, and prepare your wallet as you decide on a Holiday-gift-to-yourself. Bid your holiday bonus an early goodbye!

THE TITAN X, NVIDIA'S 4K MONSTER

When the original GTX Titan was announced last 2013, reviewers the world over were scratching their heads over what Nvidia admitted was a hasty release. The fact that it was tagged at over USD 1,000 didn't help the card's reputation either. A year later, the Titan Z was announced and though it brought newer architecture and more VRAM to the table, its mind boggling price tag of more than USD 3,000 again gained the ire of PC enthusiasts everywhere.

The third time seems to be the charm for Nvidia as the latest GTX Titan X released earlier this year gained worldwide praise, silencing critics thanks to its buffed specs, impressive overclocking capability, and unmatched 4K performance. While other high-end cards had their bottoms handed to them by titles such as *Battlefield 4* and *Shadow of Mordor*, the Titan X breezed through both gaming and synthetic benchmarks to be one of the—if not the only—best single GPU cards out in the market. Sounds good? The shining glory that is buttery smooth 4K PC gaming can be yours for only USD 1,000.



OPTIMIZED MOBA GAMING WITH THE NVIDIA GTX 950

If the thought of dropping the three-month budget of a typical Filipino middle class family on a graphics card is too insane for you (as it is with most of the Master Race), then there's the budget-oriented GTX 950. Sitting above the 750 Ti but below the GTX 960 in price, the GTX 950 is touted as the best entry-level card for those into Multiplayer Online Battle Arenas (MOBAs) like *DOTA 2*, *League of Legends*, and *Heroes of the Storm*, nailing 85, 87, and 69fps respectively in 1080p at maximum settings.

What's confusing about it is that it effectively cannibalizes the niche the 960 is in. While the fewer CUDA cores and slightly toned down clock speed did equate to a lower retail figure, buyers of this card should know that for at most another two grand, you can get the 960 for even better performance across the board. Still, the 950's promise of optimized MOBA gaming with its reduced input lag and first dibs on new Nvidia GeForce features will surely please those working on an extremely tight budget.



AMD'S TINY R9 FURY X AND R9 NANO PROVE GOOD THINGS COME IN SMALL PCBs

Though AMD refreshed their Radeon 200 series with the new 300 series cards, the company's aces are no doubt the newest Fury series which include the R9 Fury X and R9 Nano. What's so special about these GPUs? They are two of the shortest high-end cards in the market, coming in at a mere 6- and 7.64-inches in length respectively. Always wanted a cute, small form factor gaming rig no larger than your everyday backpack? Here are the cards for that.

The short PCBs are possible thanks to the new High Bandwidth Memory (HBM) technology wherein the memory modules are stacked on top of each other instead of being dotted across the mainboard. Not only does HBM save space, it also allows faster data processing at a bandwidth of 512GB/s. The video buffer modules surround AMD's new Fiji chip featuring 4096 Stream Processors to give it the punch it needs against giant games.

Also noteworthy is the R9 Nano's water cooling solution. Yes, the card is water cooled out of the box through a specially designed Cooler Master closed loop solution.



INTEL FULFILLING MOORE'S LAW WITH SKYLAKE

After much anticipation, Intel's sixth generation processors codenamed Skylake arrived last September ushering in a new era in CPU technology. And by that, I mean you're required to get a new motherboard with the Z170 chipset as well as DDR4 RAM. Two initial flavors are already out in the market, the i5-6600K and i7-6700K, with the smallest-ever 14nm chip set to invade laptops, NUCs, Compute Sticks, and other mobile devices in the future.

The newest Intel desktop offering sports a seemingly low 5 to 10-percent performance improvement over the old Haswell CPUs, but the caveat is that it overlocks like a beast with a permanent sugar high. It can stably go from the i5's 3.5GHz base and i7's 4.0GHz base to around 4.6GHz for both processors on air cooling, even going as far as 6.5GHz (!!!) with liquid nitrogen keeping Skylake tame. Both models ship with no stock coolers which is a pretty insightful move from Intel; given that they have unlocked multipliers, it wouldn't be safe attempting to overclock using the crappy stock heat sink and fan.



MACBOOK 2015: DEFINITELY LIGHT, MAYBE JUST A YEAR AHEAD.

Apple's latest notebook is something that nobody would really need in their life, but boy oh boy, does it make you want to buy it anyway. It's even slimmer and lighter than the already svelte MacBook Air, yet it still manages to ship with decent innards perfect for a mobile workhorse. There's also tons of new technology in that thin shell, including a more responsive keyboard with Apple's own butterfly switch system; a high-resolution Retina display; Force Touch trackpad; up-to-date Wi-Fi and Bluetooth interfaces; and the newest USB-C port. Here's the future served on a very expensive plate.



LAPTOP GPUS WITHOUT THE "M"

Laptops have always taken a backseat to their bulkier PC counterparts when it comes to gaming. That GTX 980M on your laptop will always be around 20-percent slower than its namesake GTX 980. Given that notebooks have small bodies and a limited number of cooling options, mobile GPUs have been neutered as to not melt itself and the components around it—a problem rarely faced in a full tower.

Thankfully, notebook nobles will soon get the power of a desktop on their laps as Team Green has struck up partnerships with OEMs in order to squeeze the high-end GTX 980—with all its 2048 CUDA cores and up to 8GB of VRAM running at full speed—into 17-inch or bigger laptops. Moreover, features such as overclocking, memory speed tweaks, and fan speed control will be brought into the portable fold. Now, you can really enjoy 60fps gaming on the road.

Of course, other significant releases also happened over the year, including AMD's new and improved APU chips; the Steam Link and Steam Controller; gaming capable mini PCs; and blingy peripherals. It seems the hardware market is picking up its pace and you know what that means: the best today will be bested in the very near future.



THE BEST OF 2015 CAMERAS

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos

In recent years, advancements in the field of smartphone cameras have threatened the imaging space with their portability and laser-sharp photo capturing abilities. Though many now prefer smartphones over dedicated cameras, a lot will rightly argue that cameras still produce superior images than the tiny cameras found in our smartphones, and we couldn't agree more.

The holiday season ushers in family reunions along with the opportunity to travel. This means that you'll be needing a trusty camera to capture all the memories you'll be making. Now on to choosing the camera for you. There are dozens of models of different types of cameras to choose from in the market, and to the casual shopper, they will all look the same. Before you go burning your Christmas bonus on a camera, you must first get acquainted with the different types of cameras. Will you be needing a professional camera, or something you can easily travel around with? This is one question you have to ask yourself. In this list, we help you figure your way into the world of digital imaging and find a camera that's for you.

POINT-AND-SHOOT CAMERAS

For neophytes and travellers who want to keep it light, a point-and-shoot camera is for you. Commonly referred to as digi-cams in the Philippines, these small, compact cameras are what your *titas* will whip out of their purse as they force you to stand and smile in front of a Christmas tree, inside a populated mall. As suggested by its name, this type of camera is the easiest to use as you'll just have to "point" the lens your subject's way and "shoot" by pressing the shutter button. You can expect a point-and-shoot camera to carry a few control buttons and several settings you can tweak to produce better images. That shouldn't worry you as getting around it is as easy as figuring out the gameplay of *Candy Crush*.

CANON POWERSHOT SX610 HS

We recently got our hands on this superzoom camera—a point and shoot with better zoom quality and capabilities—and we were rather impressed at what it can do. It comes in a slim and compact form factor making it a perfect travel companion. Some of the best features you will find in this camera are an 18x zoom lens that can cover a 25-450mm range, 20.MP image sensor, 3-inch screen, Wi-Fi, and NFC support. For a camera this small, you'll be surprised that the images this camera renders is at par with DSLR produced photos. Well, not that much but photos taken with the SX610 can be mistaken as DSLR-produced photos and it retails at PHP 11,998



Other compact superzooms to look into are the **Panasonic Lumix DMC-ZS50**, **Nikon Coolpix S6900**, **Fujifilm FinePix JX660**, and **Sony Cyber Shot RX100**.

Apart from superzooms, there are also premium compacts, which are basically top spec'ed and first-class point-and-shoots. The **Fujifilm X100T** is one to keep your eyes on. It comes with a 16.3MP X-Trans CMOS II sensor, 3-inch 1040k-dot LCD monitor, 23mm single focal length lens, and more.



MIRRORLESS COMPACT INTERCHANGEABLE LENS CAMERAS

Mirrorless cameras are easily the go-to option for consumers who want the image quality and functionality of a DSLR camera in a discreet, lightweight, compact, and travel-friendly form factor. What it is basically is a DSLR without a mirror

reflex optical viewfinder, smaller sensors, and slightly fewer options, cutting size down significantly. It's not really that hard to pick a mirrorless camera, as what top manufacturers offer are all more than capable of giving you a good shot. In the end it will come down to how much it costs. As it is feature-packed, mostly smart, and surprisingly compact, its retail price is much higher than premium compact point-and-shoots.

You would also want to consider the possibility of buying other compatible lenses. So if your eyes are set on purchasing a mirrorless camera, you might want to check your bank account first.

FUJIFILM X-T1

This X series camera boasts the world's highest viewfinder magnification ratio of 0.77x and fastest display with a lag-time of just 0.005-sec. It is packed in a compact, weather-resistant black or graphite silver body that's guaranteed to withstand even the roughest handling. Also, it is both dust and water resistant, and is still functional even in temperatures as low as -10°C. Apart from its rugged features, it comes with a 16.3MP APS-C X-Trans CMOS II sensor for images that just screams "look at me," 3-inch 1040k dot tilting LCD monitor for capturing photos in the lowest of low and highest of high angles, Real Time Viewfinder for viewing your subjects, and a newly designed Graphic User Interface making it user-friendly. It sells for PHP 97,990 with an XF18-135mm lens.

While an expensive mirrorless camera seem to be the best option, there are quite a few models available in the market that won't break the bank but still produce images sharp, noise-free images.

Not so long ago, we were able to put the **Samsung NX3000** through its paces and it succeeded with only minor issues. This svelte mirrorless camera is fitted with a 23.5 x 15.7mm APS-C CMOS sensor capable of capturing 20.3MP resolution photos. It comes bundled with a 16-50mm OIS Power Zoom lens along with a DRiME IV image signal processor for speedy and accurate image renders, flip-up LCD for selfies, and Wi-Fi and NFC capabilities ideal for people who often update their social networking accounts. Its upgraded sibling, NX3300, has also just made its debut but we're not sure when it's going to land in the Philippines.



DIGITAL SLRS

And for photography enthusiasts and novices who are serious in getting their photography game on, DSLRs are the way to go. DSLRs in general produce stunning quality photos thanks to their top of the line specs and most importantly the shooting control expertise of its owner. You know how DSLRs are; these cameras are big, bulky, heavy, and far more expensive than all the types of cameras we've listed here. What we can suggest is invest on a camera brand with a good selection of lenses.

Canon and Nikon are on top of the heap of the lens system. Other names such as Pentax and Fujifilm are there too, but the former are far more established and offer a variety of options.

Also, before purchasing a DSLR ask the clerk if you can hold it and take a few shots so you'll now if you are comfortable in handling a DSLR with such a build and if the controls are easily accessible.



CANON EOS 5DS R

This DSLR is one of Canon's best. It comes with a whopping 50.6MP full-frame CMOS sensor, Dual DIGIC 6 Image Processors, 61-Point High Density Reticular AF, Advanced mirror control mechanism, Full HD 30p movie recording capability, Time Lapse Movie function, 3.2-inch ClearView II LCD monitor, and other various technologies making for a well-rounded DSLR.

The entry-level DSLR, **Nikon D5500** is also worthy of mention because of its, 24.2MP image sensor, swivelling touch-enabled vari-angle LCD, built-in Wi-Fi connectivity, Full HD 1080/60p video recording, and lots of in-camera filters and effects.

These brawny cameras add bulk to your luggage, but the image quality they produce is unmatched. They make for worthy investments if you are really into photography, but if you're just more into casual photo snapping, you can opt for the other categories we've listed above.

THE BEST OF 2015: TABLETS AND SMARTPHONES

Words by Ren Alcantara

It's a great time to be alive. While we don't have flying cars, our hoverboards are mostly gimmick, and self-lacing kicks are just breaking the horizon, we've got a lot going on for us. Video calls in our pockets, all of human knowledge at our fingertips, and volumes of books in a device the size of, well, a book, are just some of the things we enjoy right now. At the forefront of the innovation in consumer tech are both the smartphone and tablet. The most personal of all devices, they let us do more anywhere. 2015 has been a good year for these segments. Here are some of our favorites.

LG G4

Building on the critical acclaim of the G3, the G4 upped the ante with an even better camera, more luxurious design, and faster components. At the time of launch in the middle of 2015, the G4 was easily one of the most desirable phones available—a title it retains to this day. LG hoped to wrestle its way to the top spot of the Android smartphone market, and the G4 put them in serious contention for the title. While it did have a few problems, such as the durability of the leather back, the usual, generic lag complaints, and other little “problems,” it hasn't kept people from wanting and buying more. You can't really blame anyone. With a 16MP camera and laser autofocus, huge 5.5-inch screen with almost non-existent bezels, LTE connectivity, and 3GB of RAM, it's a monster of a phone very much deserving of the title “flagship.”



ASUS ZENFONE 2

Launched at the top of the year, the Asus Zenfone 2 brought together seemingly contradictory elements: amazing specs, great features, and a very reasonable price. With a 13MP camera, an option for a massive 4GB of RAM, and the Intel Atom processor paired with a PowerVR GPU, it was, and remains, an excellent deal at a hair under PHP 15,000. By all accounts, such a device shouldn't be possible, yet here we are. The demand for the phone was so high at launch, shops all over had trouble keeping up. While it's one of the older phones on this list, it more than holds its own against other giants in the lineup. There is little doubt in our minds that it'll remain relevant even after the Zenfone line gets updated next year.



APPLE IPHONE 6S PLUS

Any list about smartphones would be incomplete without the iPhone, and the current king of the Apple castle is the iPhone 6s Plus. Released in September, the phone is well-received among Apple fans, and begrudgingly respected by everyone else. Much faster, with a better fingerprint sensor, and the addition of Force Touch, the 6s Plus manages things with 2GB of RAM and a dual-core processor, which other phones struggle with. While it's not the default choice for “hardcore” users, the ease of use, consistency of performance, and wide availability of apps mean this phone isn't likely to lose out to the competition any time soon, cult following aside.



LUMIA 950 XL

Not excited about Microsoft's news regarding the 950 XL? You should be. Microsoft has put a lot of work into unifying their mobile and PC operating systems, and if what they're saying is solid (and we have every reason to believe it is) this is going to change a lot of things. The 950 XL, bigger brother to the Lumia 950, is one of two devices that will allow you to use Continuum. "What's Continuum?" We're glad you asked. Since the mobile and desktop versions of the Windows 10 operating system are one and the same, there is nothing keeping your Windows 10 phone from acting like a full desktop, save for the fact that it's more practical as a phone. With Continuum, you can connect a keyboard, display, and monitor to your phone, and get a complete, working desktop. This is great news for those who shuttle back and forth across a number of destinations. You can have everything you need, bar none, right on a device that's significantly smaller than a laptop. It won't replace a server, or even a gaming PC, but it's going to let you do way more than a regular old phone would, and it's still a really awesome, extremely powerful smartphone to boot.



IPAD PRO

The iPad Pro is rightfully described as "epic." It's huge, at 12.9 inches, and wonderfully constructed, as Apple iPads are known to be. Touted as the perfect canvas for your biggest ideas, it has transitioned from a device that mainly consumes content, to one that allows users to create. The third-generation A9X chip is the heart of the iPad Pro. More than just a regular iPad on steroids, it still works great as a device to handle your multimedia needs. Paired with the Apple Pencil though, it becomes a canvas that's ready to help you create art, put down thoughts, or just let your imagination run wild. With functions similar to the iPhone series, including Siri, Spotlight Search, and Fingerprint security, plus all of the apps available on the Apple Store, you've got everything you need to make the most out of every bit of time you have.

MICROSOFT SURFACE PRO 4

Power. There's no other word that so perfectly captures what the Surface Pro 4 is all about. Again, running Windows 10, the Surface Pro 4 lets you use all the programs you would normally have on your Windows PC. Able to switch from a light tablet, to a full-featured laptop with the addition of a keyboard, the Surface Pro 4 is exactly the device that might just be able to take the place of your regular laptop. With one of several Intel Core processors, and up to 16GB of RAM, and Intel Iris Graphics on the i7 model, it's no slouch. Nine hours of battery life and a bag-friendly 1.73 grams mean this is a device that's meant to go with you everywhere, letting you work or play anywhere you might be. All that power and functionality is more than worth the cost of admission.



WE *Wish* YOU A TECHIE HOLIDAY

The best things about the holidays are having the opportunity to spend quality time with your family away from the stresses of work and school, and ultimately to give and receive bountiful gifts. There's no question that you would want to give the best in exchange for priceless smiles from your loved ones, however, picking the right present even when you have plenty of time in your hands is no easy task.

Let our stunning holiday muse, Laurence Houde, help you fill up your wish list with the latest gadgets and gizmos perfect for the Yuletide season.

Art Direction by **THERESA ELORIAGA**
Photography by **DOOKIE DUCAY**
Hair and Make Up by **PATRICIA AQUINO**
Styling by **JONAH MENDOZA**
Model: **LAURENCE HOUDE**
of Women's Folio
Model Management



STARMOBILE KNIGHT ELITE

With this smartphone's thin, light frame, and awesome photography features, you can never go wrong.

Dress by Van Vogue Manila



LG SMART CURVED OLED 4K 3D TV

Capable of producing perfect blacks and accurate colors, you can expect nothing but the best.



NIKON D7200

Capture candid and meaningful holiday moments with a powerful camera that catches every precious detail.





CHRISTMAS IN A TROPICAL WONDERLAND

Interviewed by Chris Noel Hidalgo

We've been extra nice this year, and jolly ol' Saint Nick has rewarded us with a definite stunner in Laurence Houde, a 5'8" Canadian beauty with a captivating smile and vibrant aura that just radiates through these pages.

It's her innate charm that has landed her gigs far away from her home country; in fact, she was strutting her stuff for the runways over at Bangkok, Thailand before she embarked on her Philippine stint. By the time this issue comes out, Laurence will have already been here two months, adding this *Gadgets Magazine* shoot to her already extensive resumé which includes catwalks and projects for *Red Logo*, *Folded and Hung*, *Kamiseta*, and *Rustan's World Wide Wear*.

Asked where she'll be spending her Christmas, Laurence answered that she'll be celebrating it here in the country—the first time she won't be with her family during the holidays. "I want to be strong and independent for one year. For one time I'll try to spend my Christmas without them."

That doesn't mean she'll be any less Christmas-y this time, though. In keeping with the holiday spirit, Laurence says she loves giving gifts and she relishes the expression on her friends' faces when they open her presents.

While we Filipinos would want to spend our holidays frolicking in the snow and making snowmen and snow angels, Laurence would rather spend Christmas on a tropical island someday, celebrating only with her closest friends. Luckily, she has 7,107 islands to choose from here, enough for the next 7,107 vacations she wants to spend under the sun.

Dress by **Van Vogue Manila**



2015 GADGETSTM MAGAZINE



Start your shopping early to avoid the Christmas rush as the holiday season quickly approaches. Be the favorite *tita*, son, daughter, *ninong*, or even secret Santa as we show you the most awesome gifts you can give this Christmas. We've got all the members of your family covered as we offer items ranging from sporty equipment to mean two-wheelers. Make Christmas 2015 one for the books.



WD My Cloud NAS

- Share files, stream media, and access content anywhere with the My Cloud at home
- Streamlined setup and backup
- Available in 2TB, 3TB, and 4TB capacities
- USB 3.0 compatible
- Can stream content to any DLNA-certified multimedia device such as the WD TV Live
- Accompanying app available on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store

PHP 11,490 (4TB)
PHP 8,990 (3TB)
PHP 7,490 (2TB)



WD My Passport 3TB External Hard Drive

- 256-bit AED hardware encryption
- USB 3.0 compatibility with transfer rates up to 5GB per second
- Built-in WD Backup Software
- Available in classic black, brilliant white, wild berry, and noble blue

PHP 8,990



WD My Cloud Mirror NAS

- Two hard drives set to Mirror Mode (RAID 1)
- 512MB RAM
- 171.45 x 99.06 x 154.94mm
- Supports My Cloud OS 3
- WD Sync automatically synchronizes content across your devices

PHP 15,990 (4TB)
PHP 20,990 (6TB)
PHP 25,990 (8TB)



PHP 9,990

Starmobile Knight Elite Smartphone

- 1.5GHz octa-core Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 64-bit processor
- Adreno 405 GPU
- 2GB RAM
- 32GB expandable storage
- 13MP BSI with flash (rear) and 5MP with flash (front) cameras
- 5-inch IPS FHD display
- 2600mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth, LTE/dual SIM
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- 6.85mm thin; front and back Corning Gorilla Glass

 Starmobile



PHP 7,990

Starmobile Knight Vision Smartphone

- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- Mali 400MP2 GPU
- 2GB RAM
- 16GB expandable storage
- 13MP Sony IMX Exmor RS lens with Optical Image Stabilization (rear) and 8MP (front) cameras
- 5.5-inch IPS HD display
- 2450mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- Digital TV (ISDB-T and DVB)

PHP 4,990

Starmobile Up Vision Smartphone

- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582M processor
- Mali 400MP2 GPU
- 1GB RAM
- 8GB expandable storage
- 13MP Sony lens with BSI f/2.0 sensor and Blue Glass Filter (rear) and 8MP (front) cameras
- 4.7-inch IPS HD display
- 1800mAh Li-ion battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth
- Android 4.4 KitKat
- 137 x 68 x 8.1mm; 137g
- Digital TV (ISDB-T and DVB)

PHP 6,490

Starmobile Up Max Smartphone

- 1.3GHz quad-core MediaTek MT6582 processor
- Mali 400MP2 GPU
- 1GB RAM
- 16GB expandable storage
- 13MP Sony Exmor RS IMX135 lens (rear) and 5MP (front) cameras
- 5-inch IPS HD display
- 5000mAh Li-Po battery
- Wi-Fi b/g/n, Bluetooth
- Android 5.0 Lollipop
- Digital TV (ISDB-T and DVB)





Citizen Eco-Drive Satellite Wave F100 Wristwatch

- 12.4mm thin
- 3-second synch reception speed
- Satellite timekeeping system for up to 40 time zones or 27 cities
- Perpetual calendar
- Anti-glare sapphire crystal
- Day and date feature
- Water resistant up to 100 meters

Frederique Constant Horological Smartwatch

- 25-months battery life
- Stainless steel case
- Compatible with iOS and Android devices
- Analog notifications on diamond-cut watch dial hands
- Sleep and fitness tracker functions via MotionX motion tracker engine
- Water-resistant up to 5ATM



PHP 149,000

Rado Hyperchrome Ceramic Touch Dual Timer Wristwatch

- Scratch-resistant grey ceramic case and bracelet
- Dual Timer function with both main and secondary dials showing distinct time zones
- Touch-enabled time switch
- Super-LumiNova watch hands and dial
- Water-resistant up to 5ATM



PHP 28,500

Tissot T-race Touch Steel Smartwatch

- Stainless steel case and synthetic strap
- Tactile sapphire crystal glass
- Chronograph (add/split/lap) function
- Built-in compass
- Countdown timer that can be set for hours, minutes, and seconds
- Up to two 24-hour alarms
- High tide and low tide time display
- Water-resistant up to 9.87ATM





PHP 86,900

Yamaha Mio 125 MXi Scooter

- 125cc 4-stroke, 2-valve, liquid cooled, SOHC engine
- 11.3PS @ 8500RPM and 10.4Nm @ 7000RPM
- 3.8L fuel capacity, Fuel Injection
- Automatic transmission with V-Belt
- Kick and electric starting system
- Telescopic (front) and unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and drum (rear) brakes
- Smart lock system; carbon fiber muffler; integrated key shutter; smart stand switch

PHP 69,900

Yamaha Mio i 125 Scooter

- 125cc 4-stroke, 2-valve, air cooled, SOHC engine
- 9.52PS @ 8000RPM and 9.6Nm @ 5500RPM
- 4.2L fuel capacity, Fuel Injection
- Automatic transmission with V-Belt
- Kick and electric starting system
- Telescopic (front) and unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and leading/trailing (rear) brakes
- Eco indicator; integrated key shutter; smart stand switch



PHP 79,900

Yamaha Mio Soul i 125 Scooter

- 125cc 4-stroke, 2-valve, air cooled, SOHC engine
- 9.4PS @ 8000RPM and 9.6Nm @ 5500RPM
- 4.2L fuel capacity, Fuel Injection
- Automatic transmission with V-Belt
- Kick and electric starting system
- Telescopic (front) and unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and mechanical drum (rear) brakes
- Side stand switch; eco indicator; 14L utility box



PHP 79,900

Nikon D750 DSLR

- 24MP FX-format CMOS sensor
- EXPEED 4 image processor
- Nikon F bayonet lens mount
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080 at 60fps
- ISO 100-51,200
- 3.2-inch tilting vari-angle TFT monitor
- Approximately 1,230 shots battery life
- Built-in Wi-Fi connectivity and compatibility with the WT-5a + UT-1 Communication Unit
- Built-in flash

PHP 25,900

Nikon 1 J5 Mirrorless Camera

- 20.8MP CX-format BSI CMOS sensor
- Nikon 1 mount
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080 at 60fps
- ISO 160-12800
- 3-inch tilting TFT monitor
- Approximately 250 shots battery life
- Built-in flash



PHP 15,990

Nikon S6900 Digital Camera

- 16MP 1/2.3-inch CMOS sensor
- 2x optical zoom/24x Dynamic Fine Zoom NIKKOR glass lens; f/3.3 to f/6.3
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080 at 30fps
- ISO 125-6400
- 3-inch flip-out TFT monitor
- Approximately 180 shots battery life
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices
- Built-in flash
- Built-in kickstand and front shutter selfie button
- Gesture control for photos and videos



PHP 8,990

Nikon S3700 Digital Camera

- 20MP 1/2.3-inch CCD sensor
- 8x optical zoom, 16x Dynamic Fine Zoom NIKKOR glass lens; f/3.7 to f/6.6
- Video capture up to HD 1280 x 720 at 30fps
- ISO 80-3200
- 2.7-inch TFT monitor
- Approximately 240 shots battery life
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices
- Built-in flash



PHP 19,900

Nikon AW130 Digital Camera

- 16MP 1/2.3-inch CMOS sensor
- 5x optical zoom, 4x digital zoom NIKKOR glass lens; f/2.8 to f/4.9
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080 at 30fps
- ISO 125-6400
- 3-inch OLED monitor
- Approximately 370 shots battery life
- Waterproof to 100 feet deep, freezeproof to 14°F, shockproof from falls up to 7 feet
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices



PHP 66,900 (Standard Variant)
PHP 69,900 (CBS-ISS Variant)



Honda BeAT Fi eSP Series Scooter

- 108.2cc 4-stroke, air cooled SOHC eSP engine
- 8.68PS @ 7500RPM and 9.01Nm @ 6000RPM
- 3.7L fuel capacity, Programmed Fuel Injection
- V-Matic Automatic transmission
- ACG Starting System, Kick and Electric
- Telescopic fork (front) and mono shock-unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and mechanical leading trailing (rear) brakes
- Combined Brake System (CBS); Idling Stop System (ISS); 11.2L utility box; secured key shutter; side stand switch



PHP 87,900

Honda Click 125i Scooter

- 124.8cc 4-stroke, liquid cooled, SOHC 2-valve eSP engine
- 11.4PS @ 8500RPM and 11.16Nm @ 6500RPM
- 5.5L fuel capacity, Programmed Fuel Injection
- V-Matic Automatic transmission
- ACG Starting System, Kick and Electric
- Telescopic (front) and unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and mechanical leading trailing (rear) brakes
- Combined Brake System (CBS); Idling Stop System (ISS); extra-large utility box; integrated safety ignition; side stand switch



PHP 93,900

Honda Zoomer X Scooter

- 108.2cc 4-stroke, air cooled SOHC eSP engine
- 8.81PS @ 7500RPM and 9.03Nm @ 6000RPM
- 4.4L fuel capacity, Programmed Fuel Injection
- V-Matic Automatic transmission
- ACG Starting System, Kick and Electric
- Telescopic inverted fork (front) and mono shock-unit swing (rear) suspensions
- Hydraulic disc (front) and mechanical leading trailing (rear) brakes
- Combined Brake System (CBS); Idling Stop System (ISS); flexible utility box; side stand switch





CamelBak Arc 4 Hydration Belt

PHP 2,650

- Hydration Capacity: 1 L / 4 x 8 oz
- Total Capacity: 20 cu in / .33L + 4 x 8oz bottles
- Total Weight: 2.5 oz / 70 g
- Dimensions: 4.5 x 35 in / 11.5 x 91 cm
- Back Panel: Air Mesh
- Belt: Hook and loop closure with Elastic webbing
- Fabric: 70D Diamond Clarus with DWR + 1000 mm PU & Air Mesh

PHP 1,050

CamelBak Podium Ice 21oz Bike Bottle

- Hydration Capacity: 21oz / 610ml
- Weight: 5.76oz / 163gm
- Dimensions: 10.5 X 2.9 in / 26.67 X 7.4 cm
- Bottle Material: BPA-Free TruTaste Polypropylene
- Cap Material: BPA-Free TruTaste Polypropylene
- Bite Valve Material: Medical grade, self-sealing silicone Jet Valve



CAMELBAK®



CamelBak Classic Hydration Pack

PHP 2,350

- Hydration Capacity: 70 oz / 2 L
- Total Capacity: 2L Reservoir
- Total Weight: 6.7 oz / 0.19 kg (pack only)
- Dimensions: 14.75 X 9.625 X 4 in / 37.5 x 24.5 x 10 cm
- Torso Length: 13 in / 33 cm
- Empty Reservoir Dimensions: Air Mesh
- Materials: LightWeight Mesh
- Front zip pocket

CamelBak M.U.L.E. Hydration Pack

- Total Capacity: 549 cu in / 9L + 3L reservoir
- Pack-Only Weight: 1 lb 5 oz / .61 kg
- Torso Length: 16.5 in / 42 cm
- Back Panel: XV Multi-Layer EVA foam pods provide superior cross ventilation in a lightweight design.
- Belt: Removable 20mm / .75" stability
- Harness: Independent suspension with ultra light 3D mesh and perforated foam
- Fabric: 70D / 210 D diamond ripstop nylon, 70D / 140D block dobby nylon
- Features: XV back panel, magnetic tube trap, bike tool organizer pocket, four-point compression, helmet hooks, antidote reservoir

PHP 4,540





LG
Life's Good



LG 105UC9 Super Ultra HD TV

- 105-inch Curved 5K panel offering deep contrast, accurate colors, and wide viewing angles
- 11 million pixels (5120 x 2160); CinemaScope 21:9 aspect ratio
- Built-in 7.2-channel, 150W Harman/Kardon sound system
- True 5K engine accurately upscales lower resolution content
- 5K 3D+ feature
- webOS, LG's Smart TV system

PHP 34,990

LG V10 Smartphone

- New Manual Video Mode
- Steady Record Cam and Snap Video mode
- Multi-View Video Recording
- Quick Video Editor
- Dual Front Camera
- 16MP with f/1.8 lens and OIS 2.0 (rear)
- 5MP dual lens 120-degrees wide angle (front) cameras
- Qualcomm Snapdragon 808 processor
- 5.7-inch QHD IPS Quantum Display
- 32GB (SDRAM LPDDR3) + 32GB eMMC
- 3000mAh battery
- 4G LTE
- Android 5.1.1 Lollipop



LG Curved 4K OLED TV EG965T 4K UHD TV

- 65-inch Curved 4K UHD OLED panel offering deep blacks and rich colors
- Art Slim, Curved Screen, Art Screen design
- 8.3 million pixels (3840 x 2160)
- High Dynamic Range
- Built-in Harman/Kardon sound system for 65-inch model with Ultra Surround, Smart Sound Mode, and Wireless Sound Sync features
- webOS 2.0, LG's Smart TV system, with Web Browser, Smart Share, Magic Remote, LG Store, Live Menu, My Channels, and Launcher features



LG GR-D31FWCHL Refrigerator

- Dual door-in-door, black stainless steel design
- 32.9 cubic feet capacity
- 912 x 1,797 x 923mm (W x H x D)
- Linear inverter compressor
- Touch Display
- Hygiene Fresh+; EZ Ice Maker; In and Out Sauce Carrier; Tilting Veggie Basket; Folding Shelf; Xtra Duo Space; Smart Diagnosis
- 10-year compressor warranty; 2-year parts and service warranty



PHP 159,995



PHP 12,998

Canon Powershot SX410 IS Digital Camera

- 20MP 1/2.3-inch CCD sensor
- DIGIC 4+ image processor
- 40x optical zoom, 80x with Zoom Plus; f/3.5 to f/8.0
- Video capture up to HD 1280 x 720
- ISO 100-800
- 3.0-inch monitor
- Approximately 185 shots battery life
- Intelligent image stabilizer
- Built-in flash

PHP 11,998

Canon Powershot SX610 HS Digital Camera

- 20MP 1/2.3-inch sensor
- DIGIC 4+ image processor
- 18x zoom, 36x with Zoom Plus; f/3.8 to f/20.0
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080
- ISO 80-1600
- 3.0-inch monitor
- Approximately 270 shots battery life
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices
- Built-in flash
- Auto zoom function



PHP 158,998

Canon EOS 5DS DSLR

- 50.6MP full-frame CMOS sensor
- DIGIC 6 image processor
- Canon EF lenses (except EF-S and EF-M lenses)
- 61-point wide area auto focus
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080
- ISO 100-12800
- 3.2-inch TFT monitor

PHP 34,998 (with EF-S 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM lens)

Canon EOS 750D DSLR

- 24.2MP CMOS sensor
- Compatible with Canon EF lenses (including EF-S lenses)
- 19-point all cross-type AF
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080
- ISO 100-12800
- 3.0-inch TFT capacitive touch monitor
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices
- Built-in flash



PHP 25,998 (with EF-M 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM lens)
 PHP 33,498 (with EF-M 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM and EF-M 22mm f/2 STM lenses)
 PHP 40,498 (with EF-M 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 IS STM and EF-M 55-200mm f/2 STM lenses)

Canon EOS M3 DSLR

- 24.2MP APS-C CMOS sensor
- DIGIC 6 image processor
- Compatible with EF-M lenses and over 60 EF/EF-S lenses using EF-EOS M adapter
- Hybrid CMOS AF III
- Video capture up to Full HD 1920 x 1080
- ISO 100-25600
- 3.0-inch tilt touch monitor
- Built-in Wi-Fi and Near Field Communication (NFC) for wirelessly sharing photos to compatible devices
- Built-in flash





PHP 66,900

Suzuki Address Scooter

- 113cc 4-stroke, air cooled, SOHC engine
- 9.38PS @ 8000RPM and 8.7Nm @ 6500RPM
- 5.2L fuel capacity, Fuel Injection
- Continuously Variable Transmission (CVT) with V-Belt
- Kick and Electric
- Telescopic (front) and swing-arm (rear) suspensions
- Disc (front) and drum (rear) brakes
- 20L utility box; Centralized Locking System; Rear Brake Lock System



PHP 89,900

Suzuki Gixxer Backbone

- 154.9cc 4-stroke, air cooled, SOHC engine
- 14.14PS @ 8000RPM and 14Nm @ 6000RPM
- 12L fuel capacity, Carburetor
- Manual 5-speed mechanical transmission
- Kick and Electric
- Telescopic (front) and swing-arm (rear) suspensions
- Disc (front) and drum (rear) brakes
- Light, diamond-shaped chassis; large diameter front forks; mono-shock suspension; dual-outlet muffler; full-digital instrument panel



PHP 94,900

Suzuki Raider R150 Underbone

- 147.3cc, 4-stroke, 4-valve, Twincam engine
- 15.64PS @ 9500RPM and 12.4Nm @ 8500RPM
- 4.9L fuel capacity, Carburetor
- Manual 6-speed constant mesh transmission
- Kick and Electric
- Telescopic (front) and swing-arm (rear) suspensions
- Disc (front and rear) brakes
- Blue lens headlight; instrument panel with hi/lo shift timing indicator; engine cowlings; stainless steel combustion muffler with cap; premium colored mags



Pioneer AVH-175DVD

- In-Dash Double-DIN DVD multimedia AV receiver
- 6.2-inch WVGA touchscreen display
- Direct control for iPod/iPhone

PHP 12,990

PHP 12,990

Pioneer X-CM52BT-K Hi-Fi system

- DVD and CD compatible
- iOS device playback via USB
- Bluetooth and USB connectivity
- FM Tuner



Pioneer X-RSM410DVH Mini Component

- Powerful 150W RMS subwoofer
- DVD player with HDMI 1080p upscaling
- Karaoke function
- Music and photo mix slideshow via USB playback
- DVD and CD compatible
- USB connectivity
- Aux input

PHP 16,990

PHP 17,990

Pioneer HDJ-2000MK2 Professional Monitoring Headphones

- 50mm dome type driver units
- 3.55 stereo mini-jack
- Sound isolation thanks to ear pad damper and airtight stitching
- Lightweight bindings providing maximum comfort
- Rotatable housing
- Solid build
- Available in black and silver



Pioneer AVH-X5750BT

- In-Dash Double-DIN DVD Multimedia AV Receiver
- 7-inch WVGA touchscreen display
- MIXTRAX
- Built-in Bluetooth
- iOS and Android support

PHP 24,990

Pioneer

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Pioneer Philippines

Nissan NP300 Navara 2.5L 4x4 VL 7AT

Reviewed by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Nicolo David

Risking confusion in the local market, NPI decided to align their naming convention with the rest of their markets by adding the NP300 to the nameplate—where NP stands for Nissan Pickup, and 300 represents 3 tons, the vehicle's weight plus loading capacity.

We were thoroughly impressed when we drove the all-new Nissan NP300 Navara in the sand dunes of Ilocos Norte, but how did it fare in the city? Read on.



What's Hot:

- Lots of power on tap
- Better ride than some SUVs

What's Not:

- Size takes getting used to
- High hood line impedes vision

DESIGN ★★☆☆☆

Macho. Athletic. Tough. Smart. Those are just some of the adjectives used to describe the 12th-generation all-new Nissan NP300 Navara. Nissan's entry to the truck wars features strong styling and a tough-looking exterior, while sporting Nissan's V-Motion signature design that is reflected from its aggressive chrome grille to the flares on the hood. Also noticeable

in front is the boomerang-shaped LED daylight running lamps, and the integrated fog lamps that are both aesthetically pleasing and functional.

The Navara has tasteful chrome accents on the door handles, side turn lamps, as well as similarly colored roof rails and step boards. The tailgate sports a body color rear bumper that continues the crease and emphasizes the rear lights, adding to the sportiness of the exterior.

Inside, the Navara has a dark interior, and similar to other current Nissan nameplates, is fitted with their NASA-inspired Zero Gravity Seat technology that reduces driver and passenger fatigue by evenly distributing body pressure on the seat surface. The Navara's instrument cluster is easy to read—an analog tachometer and speedometer with a digital display in the middle. Entertainment is courtesy of a 6-speaker infotainment system that also serves as the display for the rear





backup camera, and has CD/MP3/iPod/Bluetooth connectivity for mobile devices. The higher trim variants also feature push button ignition, as well as cruise control, audio, and telephony controls on the steering wheel.

The color of the unit we drove was the signature savanna orange, but it is also available in galaxy black, brilliant silver, and alpine white.

HARDWARE ★★★★★☆

The entire line of the NP300 Navara is powered by Nissan's 2.5-liter DOHC in-line 4-cylinder Variable Geometry System (VGS) turbocharger with intercooler (YD25). The VL variant is mated to a 7-speed automatic gearbox and produces 190PS @ 3600RPM and maximum torque of 450Nm @ 2000RPM.

Local spec'd Navaras have full-length fully boxed ladder frames that add torsional stiffness, and an independent double-wishbone with coil spring and stabilizer front paired with a rigid 5-link with stabilizer rear suspension for better ride comfort. Stopping power is courtesy of ventilated disc fronts and drum brake rears.



Safety features include SRS Airbags, Anti-lock Brake System (ABS) with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist (BA), Limited Slip Differential (LSD), as well as Vehicle Stability Control features such as Hill Descent Control (HDC), Hill Start Assist (HSA), Active Brake Limited Slip (ABLS), and Traction Control System (TCS).

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

Driving the Navara in the countryside and in the city are two totally different experiences. Out in the open, you hardly notice how big the vehicle

is because of the great expanses of land. Driving in the city, however, is a whole different matter. Although the Navara isn't the longest, widest, or tallest vehicle around, it's still very hefty, and its hood flares make it seem bigger than it really is. I was really surprised that the Navara isn't the biggest pickup available in the market today, measuring 5,255 x 1,850 x 1,840mm (L x W x H) it sits in the middle of the pack among its contemporaries in terms of length, width, and height.

During the launch of the Navara, some colleagues questioned Nissan's decision to use coil springs instead of the traditional leaf springs that can carry heavier loads. Sometime during product planning, Nissan made the decision to prioritize ride comfort over load capacity. For our market, this move was logical since unlike other countries, we use our pickups (and SUVs) more as people carriers than actual workhorses. This isn't saying that our local spec'd trucks can't take the loads though.

Needless to say, you don't need to engage the 4x4 option when driving in the city, but you do have to carry the extra drivetrain weight. While you do feel the sluggishness because of the load, the Navara has more than enough power on tap to move you along nicely.

VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★☆

The Nissan NP300 Navara is available in seven trims, with prices starting at PHP 916,000 for the entry-level 2.5L 4x2 6MT. The model we tested was the top tier 2.5L 4x4 VL 7AT that retails for PHP 1,520,000.



BOTTOMLINE :

Because driving a truck shouldn't ride like you've been hit by one.

Honda Click 125i Fi

Reviewed by Ren Alcantara

There's no denying that two wheels are better than four, at least in traffic. The problem here is now finding the best bike for your needs. Honda has always had a great record with their bikes, and we've been fans since the Cub. Technology has advanced a fair bit since that time though. This month, we were able to get our hands on the Click 125i, a handsome little fuel-injected scooter that Honda is pushing as the future of scooters. They might just be on to something.



DESIGN ★★★★★

The Click 125i is a good-looking bike. Aggressive lines and sharp angles all give it an imposing stance that's not all that common among scooters. I'm usually iffy about little scoots, but riding the Click 125i didn't leave me feeling like I was a tourist going on a Sunday drive. It actually looks like a right proper little motorcycle. The model we had was a very fetching red with white accents,

and lots of busy lines, giving it a unique, but very appealing look. Lights are low on the front of the scoot, and sweep up, making it look like it wants to get going now now now! Overall, Honda seems to have taken the "futuristic" angle to heart. This looks like a bike that's a few years ahead of the release schedule.

The scooter is laid out in a very familiar manner, and all the controls are within easy reach. The

gauge cluster is a bit on the busy side, but quite easy to read, and very nicely lit for great visibility.

HARDWARE ★★★★★

If the bike looks like it's been pulled from the future, it's because it has been. There's a lot of tech going on here, not the least of which is the fuel-injected, liquid-cooled, 124.8cc engine that puts out 11.4PS @ 8500RPM and 11.16Nm @ 6500RPM.





It has a dry, automatic clutch for hassle-free operation, and an amazingly quiet electric starter. Stopping power is provided by disc front, and rear drum brakes, and has a large 5.5-liter fuel tank.

The bike has a wheelbase of 1,281mm, and an overall length of 1,918mm—pleasantly small. It's 1,103mm from the ground up, and just a hair under 690mm wide, or more than narrow enough to get through stopped traffic.

USER EXPERIENCE ★★★★★☆

I've always enjoyed scooters. They're a lot of fun to ride, and the twist-and-go throttle means you can just enjoy the trip. The Click 125i takes this enjoyment to another level. The convenient

twist-and-go throttle is there, as it is with all scooters, but there's a bit more urgency to the bike. It doesn't hesitate to get up to speed once you open it up, and each time I did, it put a goofy smile on my face.

Honda included their ACG starter in this bike. It uses the same generator to charge the battery and start the engine. This makes the Click start smoothly and quietly, more than once fooling me into thinking it hadn't started at all. Another feature I appreciated greatly was the Idling Stop System. Similar to active stop systems in cars, this kills the engine when you're stopped at a light, and kicks it back into life with the slightest touch of the throttle. It helps save a significant amount of fuel when you add up the time you're stopped at lights, and brings the fuel economy up on what's already a very efficient vehicle. Once you do stop to park, the bike also helpfully kills the engine once the side stand is deployed.

An odd thing that you might notice is that the brakes don't necessarily behave as you would expect. That's not to say they don't bite—they have excellent stopping power. It's just that something about them seemed... off. Reading info about it revealed the cause. The bike apparently distributes brakeforce between front and rear for optimal stopping power and rider safety. Should you get a chance to ride it, don't worry about braking, and trust the bike. It's looking out for you. Power is nice and smooth, though a little jerk-y at the start. I had to be a little more careful with the throttle than I am used to, but after a few trips to and from work, it became a non-issue.

There's quite a bit of underseat storage, enough to fit the helmet necessary to keep my large skull safe. I don't generally use it very much, but it's good to know I can keep a spare in there should I need to take a passenger.

Speaking of which, the seat on the Click 125i is roomy, cushy, and secure. The material covering it is nice and grippy, so you won't feel like you're sliding all over the place even when accelerating or braking hard. My main complaint is that it's a little high, and putting two legs down tends to pinch my thighs after a little while. People taller than my 5'4" should have less of a problem though.

Overall, Honda nailed it. It's a very, very fun bike to ride, with great styling, and a lot of technology to help the rider just get from point A to point B with the least amount of fuss. New riders looking

for a simple-to-operate machine, and even much more experienced ones who want a bike that's convenient to ride, but still a lot of fun, will appreciate the Click 125i, guaranteed.

VALUE / PRICE ★★★★★☆

The Click 125i is a little on the pricey side, at PHP 87,900. Still, it comes with so many features, and lots of fun. It's more than worth the sticker price, and will pay for itself in the smiles it will bring you.



What's Hot:

- Great styling
- Lots of technology
- Hugely fun to ride

What's Not:

- Will be just a little high for some
- Price might be an issue

BOTTOMLINE :

If you want a quick, easy, comfortable way to get around, the Click 125i is worth your attention.

Honda ends Q3 with over 2,000 units sold

Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI) closed September strong with a whopping 2,093 vehicles sold, a 54-percent growth from the same month last year.

"September definitely represents one of the best-selling months for Honda in quite a while. Our new models played a vital part in widening Honda's appeal to Filipinos. We are ecstatic to be able to see more customers enjoying their new Honda vehicles. This makes HCPI's 25th year anniversary even more memorable," said Toshio Kuwahara, HCPI president and general manager.

HCPI's strong performance is attributed to the launch of new vehicles and continuous product updates coupled with easy-to-own financing options.

At the top of the heap is HCPI's best-selling sub-compact, the City, with 920 units sold in September. The 23-percent gain from August is also the highest selling month for the 4th generation City since its launch in 2014. On the other hand, Honda's first 7-seater Multi-purpose Utility Vehicle's growing popularity contributed a significant 26-percent to HCPI's September sales.



The all-new Mobilio logged its highest sales yet at 547 units, a 49-percent surge from August. HCPI's year-to-date performance records 14,260 vehicles sold, 7-percent more than its sales in January to December 2014.

Aside from their sales achievement, HCPI is proud that their entire Philippine lineup is Euro 4 compliant, ahead of the government's January 2016 schedule.

For its 25th year anniversary month, HCPI also announced their "Cheers to 25 Years" nationwide promo where customers who visit and test drive units at any authorized dealership get the chance to win prizes.

For Honda news, events, and products information visit www.hondaphil.com for updates.

Honda launches new Zoomer-X to wrap up Gen S trifecta



Honda Philippines, Inc. has unveiled the new Zoomer-X, completing its Generation S trio that brings riders smart technology and innovative features for a more enjoyable time aboard their steeds. The motorcycle was launched alongside the Click 125i For even better fuel mileage, the Idling Stop System (ISS) automatically kills the engine after three seconds of inactivity, reigniting it with a small twist on the throttle. Meanwhile, the Combined Brake System (CBS) distributes brakeforce to the rear and front wheels for quicker and safer stops.

"These Gen S smart riders appreciate how their Honda scooters, powered by Smart Technology, enhance their daily life by creating positive impacts on fuel savings, road safety, and the environment, especially in the long term," said HPI president Daiki Mihara.

"The Honda Gen-S scooters now include the BeAT-Fi 'Scooter for All', the Click125i 'Premium Scooter', and the Zoomer-X 'Unique Real Naked

Scooter' which all feature Enhanced Smart Power, Idling Stop System, and Combined Brake System. These are the perfect scooters for the varied lifestyle and personalities of our next generation smart riders," added HPI product planning manager Elie Salamangkit Jr.

The Honda Enhanced Smart Power (eSP) engine technology optimizes the combustion process while minimizing friction between moving parts. This allows for higher power outputs while providing better fuel efficiency, quieter starts, and smoother revs. It's paired with Honda's ACG starter for jolt-free and better sounding starts.

For even better fuel mileage, the Idling Stop System (ISS) automatically kills the engine after three seconds of inactivity, reigniting it with a small twist on the throttle. Meanwhile, the Combined Brake System (CBS) distributes brakeforce to the rear and front wheels for quicker and safer stops.

Aside from the above smart features, the Zoomer-X also comes with a better 110cc PGM fuel-injected power plant for 5-percent higher torque, 6-percent higher power, and 8-percent better fuel efficiency compared to its predecessor at 62.5km/liter. The all-new Zoomer-X also sports a tough redesign, with its chassis allowing for all kinds of customization.

The all-new Honda Zoomer-X is available in marigold yellow and mat crypton silver metallic colors for PHP 93,900.

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ANOTHER



STORY...



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Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David

United Asia Automotive Group, Inc. (UAAGI), the exclusive distributor of Foton vehicles in the Philippines, formally opened their annual tradeshow last October 2, 2015 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Now on its fifth year, on display at the Big Show were Foton's full range of commercial vehicles that includes light-, medium-, and heavy-duty trucks, pickups, and buses.

Headlining the opening were the unveiling of Foton's newest additions to their stable: the Toplander SUV; the Gratour Minivan; and the full-sized Toano van.

Foton Toplander

The Toplander is the company's first SUV, developed and engineered for both daily and rugged use. It is powered by a Cummins ISF 2.8-liter diesel engine, and extracts maximum power and torque using a Bosch-branded, electronically controlled, high-pressure common rail fuel injection system and a turbo intercooler. The power plant is paired with a manual transmission.

Safety features include 3-point seatbelts with emergency locking retractor (ELR) and adjustable height, hydraulic braking auxiliary system, brake assist, hill-start assist (HSA), hill descent control (HDC), tire pressure monitoring system (TPMS) dual airbags, 4-probe reverse sensors, reverse camera, engine immobilizer, child safety locks, external and internal lamp off-delay, as well as ISOFIX points. The 4x4 variant has a torque-on-demand function, and boasts of a class leading three-ton towing capacity.

The Toplander seats seven, with a foldable third row for additional cargo space. Prices start at only PHP 998,000 for the 4x2 and PHP 1,150,000 for the 4x4. It is available in ibis white, moonlight silver, and phantom black.

Foton Gratour

The Gratour is the brand's versatile minivan that seats seven or eight passengers in highly customizable seat configurations. The V5 variant that is available locally is the top-of-the-line trim featuring the mighty yet frugal Euro-4 compliant G03 1.2-liter gasoline engine that promises impressive fuel economy, low noise, low emissions, and high reliability. The engine produces maximum power of 86PS and 112Nm of torque, and is mated to a 5-speed manual transmission.

The Gratour boasts best-in-class passenger space owing to its longer wheelbase and chassis measuring 3,915 x 1,725 x 1,845mm (L x W x H).

These measurements translate to more generous legroom and additional cargo space.

The Gratour sports an independent MacPherson front suspension, and leaf springs at the rear, and is fitted with disc brakes in front, and drums at the rear. It comes with common and central locking, a remote control key, integrated fog and daytime running lights, power windows, and an FM radio with USB connectivity.

The Foton Gratour is priced at an affordable PHP 490,000, and is available in amber bronze, aurora white, metallic silver, starry blue, and space gray.

Foton Toano

Taking its name from an Italian municipality, the Toano is Foton's big and powerful full-sized van. Designed by the original Mercedes-Benz Sprinter car design team in Stuttgart, Germany, the Toano, like the Gratour, boasts European design principles.

The Toano comfortably seats up to 18 passengers with plenty of room left over for cargo. It comes in various chassis configurations to address various customer preferences, and also appears in different lengths and sporting various tops.

Powered by a Foton Cummins ISF 2.8 diesel engine that produces 163PS of power and 360Nm of torque, the Toano's power bandwidth at low revs results in impressive fuel efficiency—up to 11.5 kilometers per liter for such a big vehicle.

Some of the Toano's safety features include Bosch's ninth-generation anti-lock braking system plus electronic brakeforce distribution; rear-facing cameras and sensors; high-strength steel plates; anti-collision beams; three-point pretensioner seat belts for all passengers; and an energy-absorbing steering column.

The Foton Toano starts at PHP 1,688,000 and is available in aurora white, metallic silver, and amber bronze.

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All-new Toyota Land Cruiser

Words and Photos by Maribelle Alba

Toyota's flagship SUV got a complete makeover with the introduction of the all-new Land Cruiser (LC200) last October 22, 2015. The premium 4WD SUV now comes in two choices: the standard LC200 and the LC200 Premium. Both are powered by the same 4.5-Li direct injection, common rail system, twin turbo inter-cooler V8 diesel engine.

The LC200 Premium is packed with cutting-edge features such as vehicle stability control (VSC), traction control (A-TRC), hill-climb assist (HAC), multi-terrain select and "CRAWL," the first and only driver-assist in its class to make rides safer and easier. Both grades have been designed to look more aggressive and powerful, with its redesigned grille and bumper, new BI-LED headlamps, and LED front fog lamps. New rear combination lamps, chrome garnishes, and 18-inch alloy wheels complete the look. The LC200 Premium comes with a bumper overrider and a signature body stripe for a tougher stance.

Inside, the upgrade is evident in the new steering wheel design, meter gauge cluster with new 4.29-inch multi-information display, and overall center cluster design. The Premium grade comes with an audio-video navigation system and a 4-zone automatic climate control.

Both grades have illuminated door scuff plates plus a cool box storage. Additionally, the LC200 Premium features 8-way powered seats with driver memory and a power tilt + telescopic with memory steering adjust column. It also has a power moonroof.

Safety features such as airbags as well as speed-sensing power door locks are standard, while



Officers of Toyota Motor Philippines (TMP) during the Land Cruiser launch (L-R): Raymond Rodriguez, first vice president-marketing; Yohei Murase, executive vice president-marketing; Michinobu Sugata, president; Alfred Ty, vice-chairman; Dr. David Go, senior executive vice president; and Ariel Arias, senior vice president-marketing.

the LC200 Premium also has an active front headrest to reduce impact in case of a major collision.

Since it was first introduced in 1995 to local shores, the LC200 has been highly-regarded for its excellent reliability and premium features as a status vehicle. As Toyota Motor Philippines president Michinobu Sugata noted, "One cannot deny the prestige of the new Toyota Land Cruiser 200. With its more aggressive stance and additional innovative features, the latest

model will do justice to the SUV's long-standing heritage of reliability, luxury, and authority."

Pricing starts at PHP 4,422,000 for the LC200 4.5 DSi AT; PHP 4,437,000 for the LC200 DSi AT WP; PHP 4,845,000 for the LC200 Premium 4.5 DSi AT; and PHP 4,860,000 for the LC Premium 4.5 AT WP.

Available colors include white pearl, silver metallic, gray metallic, attitude black mica, dark red mica metallic, and beige mica metallic. Two new shades—dark blue mica and copper brown mica—are available on firm orders.



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Meet the new kid on the block: The Chevrolet Trax

Words by Mika Fernandez-David | Photos by Benedict Asal



The Covenant Car Company Incorporated (TCCI) officially launched the newest addition to their growing stable: the 2016 Chevrolet Trax. The compact crossover SUV offers the dynamic driving experience of a compact car with the capabilities of an SUV.

Featuring Chevy's signature chrome front grille design, the Trax comes with powerful halogen head lamps and striking Daytime Running Lights (DRL) that reflect its dynamic position as an urban SUV. Measuring 4,245 x 1,775 x 1,670mm (L x W x H), it's big enough to comfortably seat five adults, yet compact enough to be easily maneuvered in tight parking spaces.

Inside, the Trax features a leather-covered steering wheel with audio controls, Chevy's motorbike-inspired instrument cluster, a 7-inch head unit with Chevrolet MyLink /CD/MP3/WMA/Wireless connectivity, as well as 15 convenient storage locations. Fitted with a 60/40-split, flat-folding rear seat, and a fold-flat front passenger seat, the interior can be arranged in eight flexible seating configurations to accommodate up to 1,370 liters of luggage.

Safety features include the standard rear-view camera and rear park sensors; six air bags (dual front, side and curtains); electronic stability program (ESP) with anti-lock braking system (ABS), electronic brakeforce distribution (EBD), and panic brake assist (PBA); StabiliTrak traction control system (TCS), cornering brake control (CBC), roll over mitigation (ROM), engine drag control (EDC), rear wheel boost (RWB), straight line stability (SLS), hill descent control (HDC), a tire pressure monitoring system, and front and rear disc brakes.

The Trax is powered by a 1.4L turbo charged engine that produces maximum power of 142 PS @ 4,900RPM and 200Nm @ 1850RPM of torque. The engine comes with a Gen III six-speed automatic transmission that is designed to optimize engine output for both city and long drives. The Trax is equipped with premium features such as cruise control, auto on-off headlamps, roof rails, as well as 18-inch alloy wheels.

The Chevrolet Trax is available in two variants, the LS priced at PHP 998,888, and the top-shelf LT variant priced at PHP 1,218,888. Colors available are carbon flash metallic, summit white, boracay blue metallic, deep espresso brown metallic, orange rock, velvet red metallic, blaze red, snowflake white pearl, and switchblade silver metallic.



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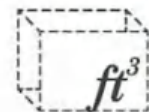
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*Applies to LS variant only. Photos and colors may vary from actual unit. Prices of provincial dealers may vary due to freight cost. Selected features may vary among models.

Subaru Eco Adventure Drive

Words and Photos by Maribelle Alba



The full line-up of Subaru vehicles were tested in a two-day Subaru Eco Adventure Drive hosted by Motor Image Pilipinas Inc. (MIPI), the exclusive distributor of Subaru vehicles in the country. Held last October 2 to 3, the drive from Manila to Angeles, Pampanga featured two activities to showcase Subaru technology—first, their fuel efficiency; and second, their off-road capabilities.

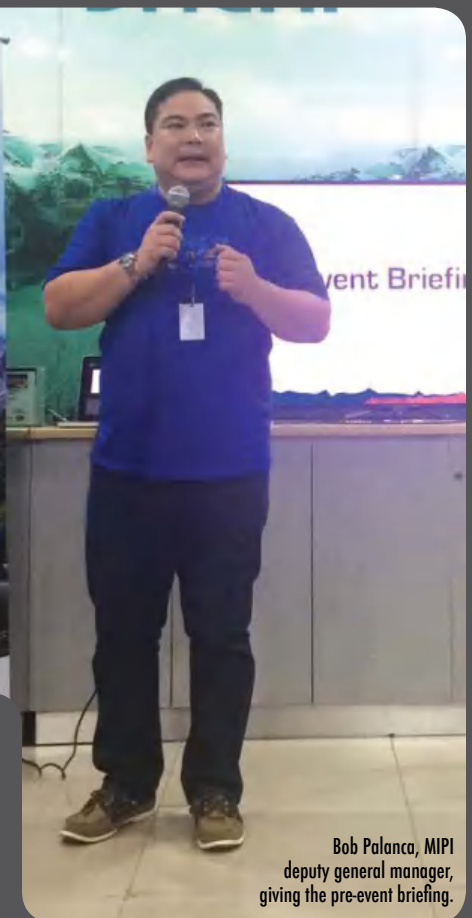
For the fuel economy run, the drive kicked off from the Subaru Greenhills showroom and took on a mix of city and highway driving conditions through EDSA and the North Luzon Expressway, finishing at the Shell gas station in Clark Field, Pampanga. Competing in the run were variants of the Subaru Forester, Subaru XV, Subaru Legacy, Subaru Outback, Subaru BRZ, Subaru WRX, and Subaru WRX STI. An official observer from the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) verified the mechanics and results of the eco-run.

After a hearty lunch at Peppers 21 at The Widus Hotel and Casino, the group took on the off-road adventure of driving through the lahar bed at the foot of Mt. Pinatubo. The trail—which included a



mix of river crossings, slippery uphill and downhill slopes, and soft wet muddy trails from the heavy rains—tested the mettle not only of the Subaru vehicles, but also the extreme driving skills of the motoring media.

The power of the Subaru Boxer engine matched to its Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive system proved to be more than capable in taking on the rough terrain. The mad dash through the muddy, uncharted trail on the Subaru Forester and Subaru XV provided an adrenaline rush as drivers took on the extreme challenge. Indeed, the Subaru compact SUV and crossover variants ably demonstrated their performance, fuel efficiency, and off-road capabilities, providing the driver with confidence to take on any terrain or weather condition.



Bob Palanca, MIPI deputy general manager, giving the pre-event briefing.

The day ended with a fun activity, with guests jamming to the tunes of one of the Philippine's top bands, True Faith.

For more information, visit any of the Subaru showrooms at EDSA Greenhills, Bonifacio Global City, Manila Bay, Alabang, Sta. Rosa, Batangas, Cebu, Davao, and Cagayan De Oro, or go to the website www.motorimage.net/PH.





The new Jaguar XE breaks into new market segment

Jaguar Philippines launched the new Jaguar XE last October 22, 2015, at the Palace Pool Club in Taguig City.

In his remarks, Jaguar Cars Inc. chair and president Wellington Soong noted, "Power of agility in the urban jungle, the ownership of a Jaguar purrs with passion and excitement from the roots of its heritage when Sir William Lyons started in 1922, and is still alive today with so much benefits from the advances of technology from aluminum and magnesium metallurgy, to the suspension and advanced electronics. This is the foundation of what a Jaguar is."

The Jaguar XE is the most aerodynamic Jaguar saloon car ever produced. It is the first Jaguar to be developed through Jaguar Land Rover's new modular vehicular structure, with a long 2,835mm wheelbase and low seating position to deliver a streamlined profile. Its aluminum density is at 75 percent, delivered through a monocoque or single shell architecture, the first in the compact executive car segment to be built in this manner.

The Jaguar XE boasts sophisticated body engineering features including the use of aerospace-inspired joining technology which gives it an outstanding combination of strength, stiffness, and durability of the chassis.

The Jaguar XE has a refined exhaust gas recirculation system, where its powertrain engineers have integrated the most advanced exhaust gas after-treatment technology.

The Jaguar XE petrol engine range begins with the turbocharged, direct-injection, 2.0-litre four cylinder unit which made its debut in the Jaguar XF and XJ saloons, and now available in the Philippines. As a further sophistication for the new Jaguar XE, this refined, lightweight powerplant is available in two ratings: 200PS/280Nm and 240PS/340Nm.



Yamaha ends Grand Prix; unveils YZF-R3



After holding gruelling heats in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Malaybalay, Bukidnon; Naga, Cebu; and Baliwag, Bulacan, Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc. (YMPH) held the sixth Grand Prix finals last September 26 and 27, 2015, at the Carmona Circuit Racetrack. The season finale also served as the launch platform for Yamaha's YZF-R3.

YMPH president Toru Osugi was present to take the wraps off the YZF-R3, the brand's racing inspired steed meant for the everyday needs of high-performance bikers. A notch above Yamaha's YZF-R15, the YZF-R3 features a better 4-stroke, liquid-cooled, DOHC, 4-valve, 320cc engine capable of producing 42.3PS @ 10750RPM and

30.2Nm of torque @ 9000RPM. It's paired to a 6-speed multi-disc clutch and is fed by a 14-liter fuel tank. Stopping duty is handled by hydraulic single discs at the front and rear.

Additionally, event guests were treated to an exclusive racing clinic facilitated by Yamaha Japan's top instructor, Yoshiaki Kato.

The Grand Prix is Yamaha's grassroots program that seeks to develop local talent for international competition. Kaoru Ogura, YMPH sales and marketing director, gave the race's Inter Club AT; Inter Club UB; AT 130 Open; AT 160 Open Novice and Expert; and for the first time ever, Sniper 150 MXi and YZF-R15 categories the green light during the two-day ordeal.

Coming out on top to be part of Yamaha Team Philippines were John Emerson Inguito, Masato Fernando, James Mendez, Aljon Valencia, Victor Laude, Arlan Dela Cruz, Paul Mark Doblada, Durraine Dan Carlos, Axl Teves, and Vingie Coloma. After dominating the local blacktop, the winners of the Grand Prix will be representing the country during the Yamaha ASEAN Cup Race.



Yamaha Big Bikes now available locally



Yamaha's Big Bikes finally landed on Philippine shores last October 2, making their debut at Yamaha's flagship YZone in Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Each unit is at the top of Yamaha's motorcycle roster in terms of power and design.

The Big Bikes include:

- the MT-09 which promises linear torque for maximum acceleration;
- the Super Tenere that is built for long out of town road trips with its comfortable seating

configuration and compact 1199 cc parallel twin and Narrow 2-cylinder inline engine;

- the TMAX is also a long distance bike that combines a powerful engine with an extremely nimble body thanks to an aluminum chassis and advanced shocks;
- the Bolt blends classic design with modern technology, and;
- the YZF-R1, the M1's consumer-oriented brother, aims to bring high-performance racing specs to public roads.

The launch was attended by Yamaha Motor Philippines, Inc. (YMPH) executives led by YMPH president Toru Osugi. After unveiling the above units, Yamaha also recognized Nicholas Bondoc for being the first person in the country to purchase a Big Bike in the form of an MT-09.

The Big Bikes are exclusively available at the flagship YZone at Lot 8 Block 8, ADB Avenue corner Ortigas Business Center, Pasig City. Interested buyers can contact the store through (02)637-9552.



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auto FOCUS PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARDS

The Philippine automotive market's best-selling standard midsize SUV, the Toyota Fortuner and Lexus' luxury compact SUV, the new NX200t, bagged the prestigious "Automobile of the Year" title in their respective categories at the Awards Night of the "2015-2016 Auto Focus People's Choice Awards" (AFPCA) held last October 16, 2015 at the Grand Ballroom of the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City. Both are first-time winners of the top award.



2015-2016 Automobile of the Year-Luxury Lexus NX200t

The AFPCA, which is now on its 11th year, is a nationwide public poll to determine the country's most popular automobile brands and models and is organized by Sunshine Television (STV).

With January-September 2015 sales of well over 14,000 units and a consolidated score of 2,923.4 points, the Toyota Fortuner topped the Standard Model category, while the Lexus NX200t top-scored with 1,113 overall points in the Luxury Model classification. The Toyota Vios, still the industry's top-selling model with more than 25,000 units sold year-to-date, drew a bye in this year's contest by virtue of its elevation to the AFPCA Hall of Fame as the first and only 3-time winner of "Automobile of the Year" honors in the Standard Category.

The Standard Category awards were dominated by Toyota Motor Corporation Philippines (TMCP) which cornered 6 of the 11 "Model of the Year" titles: Wigo (Subcompact); Corolla Altis (Compact Sedan); Innova (Multi-purpose Vehicle/MPV); Fortuner (Midsize SUV); Prado (Large SUV) and HiAce (Van). The Corolla Altis, Innova, and HiAce have now retained their titles for 4 straight years.

Also, on account of 6 previous "Midsize Model of the Year" titles, the Camry was given exception with distinction in this year's race via induction into the AFPCA Hall of Fame.

Ford Philippines bagged 2 awards: EcoSport (Compact SUV) and Ranger (Pickup). The Honda Accord (Midsize Sedan), Subaru WRX STI (Sports Car) and the Peugeot 3008 (Open) completed the list of Standard "Model of the Year" honorees.

In the Model of the Year - Luxury Category, Lexus Manila reeled in seven awards: IS350 (Luxury Compact); ES350 (Luxury Midsize Sedan); LS460L (Luxury Large Sedan); RCF (Luxury Sports Car), NX200t (Luxury Compact SUV), GX460 (Luxury Midsize) and LX570 (Luxury Large SUV). Along with TMP's Toyota Alphard (Luxury Van), the Lexus IS350, ES350, LS460L and LX570 are now the first back-to-back annual winners in their categories.

Volkswagen Philippines landed 2 awards: Golf GTI (Luxury Subcompact) and Touran (Luxury Multi-purpose Vehicle/MPV). Rounding out the luxury honors list was the Volvo V40 Cross Country in the Luxury Open classification.

During the same evening, due recognition was also conferred upon winners of the "2015-2016 Auto Focus Media's Choice Awards" (AFMCA), a second but equally important component of STV's Automobile Industry Merit Program. The purpose of AFMCA is to further recognize the automobile industry's continuing efforts to provide car owners and motorists with the best on-board features, styling, performance, and overall value. The winners in their respective performance categories were:

Best Safety Features: 10 Awardees

Honda Jazz (Subcompact); Subaru WRX STI (Sports Car); Ford Explorer (Large SUV); Porsche Cayenne (Luxury Large SUV); Honda Mobilio (MPV); Volkswagen Touran (Luxury MPV); Kia Carnival (Van); Toyota Alphard (Luxury Van); Ford Ranger (Pickup); Subaru XV (Open)

Best Value-for Money: 9 Awardees

Suzuki Swift (Subcompact); Volkswagen Golf GTI (Luxury Subcompact); Ford Mustang (Sports Car); Isuzu Mu-X (Midsize SUV); Volkswagen Touareg (Luxury Midsize SUV); Nissan Urvan (Van); Honda Odyssey (Luxury Van); Isuzu DMax (Pick-up); Mitsubishi ASX (Open)

Best Engine Performance: 9 Awardees

Volkswagen Golf GTI (Luxury Subcompact); Mazda 3 (Compact); BMW 5-Series (Luxury Midsize Sedan); Subaru WRX STI (Sports Car); Porsche Macan (Luxury Compact SUV); Volkswagen Touareg (Luxury Midsize SUV); Ford Explorer (Large SUV); Volkswagen Touran (Luxury MPV); Toyota Alphard (Luxury Van)

Best Design: 12 Awardees

Honda Jazz (Subcompact); Mercedes Benz A-Class (Luxury Subcompact); Mazda 3 (Compact); Mazda 6 (Midsize Sedan); Peugeot RCZ (Sports Car); Nissan X-Trail (Midsize SUV); Toyota FJ Cruiser (Midsize SUV); Volkswagen Touareg (Luxury Midsize SUV); Ford Explorer (Large SUV); Volkswagen Touran (Luxury MPV); Kia Carnival (Van); Volvo XC70 (Luxury Open)

In his address, STV chairman and CEO Ray Butch Gamboa noted: "The Auto Focus People's and Media's Choice Awards are merit programs that the industry and the motoring public look forward to every year. These allow car owners and car buyers to become more informed, and also provide them a channel of communication through which their voice and preferences may be openly expressed and heard by automobile manufacturers and distributors. From such feedback, better products and services can be offered to their customers. And we at STV have always been delighted to be the conduit for such interaction year in and year out."



2015-2016 Automobile of the Year-Standard Toyota Fortuner



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**CENTRALIZED
LOCKING SYSTEM**



Promo Duration: August 21, 2015 - December 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No.: 08-334 Series of 2015

Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI) holds testfest in Fontana

Words by Mika Fernandez-David

The Car Awards Group, Inc. (CAGI) successfully completed their three-day testfest for the search of the 2015 Car of the Year - Philippines and Truck of the Year - Philippines. Held on October 10, 17, and 27, the Fontana Convention Center served as the staging area for the qualitative testing, as well as part of the technical testing.



For the qualitative testing, participating vehicles were judged and scored according to factors such as design, fit and finish, ergonomics, comfort, access, driving dynamics, response, and functionality. The quantitative test, on the other hand, required expert drivers from the CAGI Technical Team to measure each vehicle's performance on a safe closed track. The CAGI Technical Team used a Racelogic VBox GPS data logger to determine and record the acceleration, braking, performance, and handling. VBox is internationally recognized as a quality standard in automotive testing.

"With the consumer in mind, we worked with KPMG to refine the scoring process and methodology. CAGI is thankful for the support from the car manufacturers and distributors for entering their vehicles into the most thorough and critical consumer oriented vehicle review process in the country. Under stringent supervision by KPMG, we combine the subjective and objective scores to determine which vehicle is truly outstanding," said CAGI president Robby Consunji. "The consumers can be assured of an



unbiased representation of a deserving COTY-P and TOTY-P winner at the Awards Night on November 13 at Fontana," he added.

The 2015 Car of the Year – Philippines was made possible by event partners Fontana Hot Spring Leisure Parks & Casino, and R. G. Manabat & Co. / KPMG, and sponsors Bose, Air Asia, HitchPro, the Manila International Auto Show, Worldbex Services International, Manila North Tollways Corporation, North Luzon Expressway, Sonax,

Ultra Modular Concepts, Inc. (UMCI), Romac Group of Companies, Columbia Sportswear, SpeedLab, and LG Electronics. Media partners include BusinessMirror, Malaya Business Insight, Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer, and The Philippine Star.

The Car Awards Group, Inc. is represented by the following media entities: Business Mirror, Cebu Daily News, Daily Tribune, Malaya Business Insight, Manila Bulletin, Manila Times, Mindanao Daily News, Philippine Daily Inquirer, AQ Magazine, Brand Magazine, C! Magazine, Gadgets Magazine, Motorcycle Magazine, Power Wheels Magazine, Speed Magazine, Stuff Magazine, Top Gear Philippines, Autodeal.com.ph, Autoindustriya.com, CarGuide.Ph, Carmudi.com.ph, Interaksyon.com, Kotse.com, ManilaSpeak.com, MotionCars.com, SprocketPH.com, TessDrive.com, TimeAttackManila.com, Yugatech.com, Auto Focus, Auto Review, Motoring Today, Stoplight TV, Motoring sa DZME, DZMM, The Motoring Page on Mellow 94.7 FM, and Inside Motoring on DZRJ 810 AM.



List of participating brands:

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SEP
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Dual-outlet muffler (first in Suzuki's small motorcycles) is designed for high exhaust efficiency

MONO-SHOCK SUSPENSION



Mono-shock rear suspension for better riding comfort and handling stability.

FULL-DIGITAL INSTRUMENT PANEL



Flat panel design looks like a smartphone. Engine RPM indicator is the same Hayabusa and GSX-R1000 in specification.



SUZUKI'S TRIPLE THREAT REGIONAL LAUNCHES HELD IN 35 AREAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 1,300 DEALERSHIPS AND OVER 3,000 SALES FRONTLINERS!



After the successful media launch, Japanese giant reached for the key cities of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao for the regional launch of Suzuki's Triple Threat – the Address, Gixxer and AX4. Suzuki also invaded the key cities of the country roaming around its vast dealership through the Suzuki's Triple Threat Territorial Launch held in Baguio, Dagupan, Cabanatuan, Roxas, Pampanga, Ilocos, Isabela, Laguna, Batangas, Lucena, Palawan, Tayabas, Pinamalayan, Naga, Legazpi, Tacloban, Roxas, Iloilo, Bacolod, Butuan, South Cotabato, Cagayan de Oro and Pagadian.





Mr. Hiroshi Suzuki, President of Suzuki Philippines Inc. attended the event and gamely appeared with make-up on when he presented the new Suzuki Address.



Kyle Vergara and Brazille Mae Pango - the faces of the new Address also graced the event with their presence and presented the unique selling points of the global scooter that are fitted to the active lifestyle of the Filipino youth.

SUZUKI PRODUCT ORIENTATION



Suzuki presented in their product orientation its triple threat to the market - the Address, Gixxer and AX4. The global brand also introduced its new technology, the SEP FI = Suzuki Eco Performance System coupled with Fuel-injection technology that is made to achieve the best of both worlds - maximum power and optimum fuel-efficiency.

During the presentation, exciting promotional items that come with every purchase of the new products were also showcased such as the colorful Address Hoodie that one can own upon purchase of the brand's latest scooter.

Guests were also given the chance to test ride the new Suzuki models during the event.

Suzuki and dealer frontliners had a happy time with fun games and exciting surprises strengthening more their friendship and good working relationship.



Solid Motorcycle Distributors Inc. President Mr. Pablo Chu supported Suzuki's regional launch held in Roxas City.



Royce Motorcycle Trade Corporation's President Mr. Antonio Chua Jr. and Ms. Mary Rose Gallo, Executive Assistant, supported Suzuki's regional launch in Cabanatuan City!



Maagang Pamasko Combo Regalo 2015



Smash 115.



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RAIDER J115 FI



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Promo period: January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 12-360, series of 2014
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Maagang Pamasko
Combo Regalo 2015

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HELMET



Promo Duration: June 26 - August 31, 2015.
Per DTI IV-A Permit No.: 06-228 Series of 2015

Actual item/s may vary depending on material and availability.



**Maagang Pamasko
Combo Regalo 2015**

RAIDER R150
Premium Color



**PLUS!
RAIDER R150
LANYARD**



**GET
PREMIUM
COLOR
JACKET**



Promo period: September 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015
Per DTI IV-A Permit No. 08-347, series of 2015
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ISUZU



Isuzu launches 3.0 VGS Turbo D-Max and mu-X

Responding to consumers' calls for more power in both the extremely popular D-Max and mu-X, Isuzu has just unveiled the updated version of both vehicles. Now running a 3.0-liter engine with the Variable Geometry System (VGS) turbocharger, both the mu-X and D-Max boast more power, fuel-efficiency, and Isuzu's renowned durability.

The VGS turbo negates the direction of exhaust gases in the engine and optimizes the turbine response at low engine speeds and eliminates the delayed power delivery known as "turbo lag" that is common to non-VGS type engines.

The new variants also boast additional features such as LED daytime running lamps for the mu-X LS-A, giving it a sportier appearance and increased visibility profile for added driving safety, both in daytime and low-light driving. The D-Max, on the other hand, has a tailgate-mounted reverse camera which automatically powers up when the pickup is shifted into reverse. The image is then displayed via the seven-inch touchscreen inside the cabin, helping the driver nail that parking job through eliminating blind spots.

We were given the chance to try both vehicles early during a special media event in Thailand earlier this month, and we can say that their claims of more power are wholly substantiated.

Both the D-Max and mu-X produce 163PS at 3200RPM and a high 380Nm of torque from 1800 to 2200RPM, meaning copious amounts of power,

fewer gear changes, and effortless climbing or towing. This was immediately apparent during the drive, as the car responded quickly and eagerly to accelerator input, propelling either vehicle to an easy hundred over the course of Isuzu's short test course. Someone needs to remind these two that they're an SUV and pickup, respectively. Rider comfort is all still there, with a roomy interior fit for a family, plus all the accompanying cargo.

The Isuzu mu-X 3.0 VGS Turbo is available in six dynamic color options: splash white, cosmic black, titanium silver, aqua blue, outback brown, and silky pearl white. Prices are set at PHP 1,398,000 for the mu-X 4x2 LS-A A/T; PHP 1,708,000 for the mu-X 4x4 LS-A A/T. An additional PHP 10,000 will be added to the variant price for all silky pearl white units.

The Isuzu D-Max 3.0 VGS Turbo, on the other hand comes in the exciting venetian red color along with the existing colors cosmic black, garnet red, titanium silver, and splash white. The Isuzu D-Max 4x2 LS M/T is priced at PHP 1,090,000; D-Max 4x2 LS A/T at PHP 1,160,000; D-Max 4x4 LS M/T at PHP 1,360,000 and D-Max 4 x 4 LS A/T at PHP 1,430,000.





Luxury, advanced.

Honda launches the all-new Legend 3.5 Sport Hybrid SH-AWD

Words by Mika Fernandez-David

Eleven years after winning the prestigious Japan Car of the Year award, Honda Cars Philippines, Inc. (HCPI), debuted the all-new, fifth generation 2016 Honda Legend 3.5 Sport Hybrid SH-AWD at the Solaire Grand Ballroom, Paranaque City.

Revolving around the "Smart Exhilarating Luxury" grand concept, Honda's flagship vehicle showcases the brand's highest level of craftsmanship as it imprints its mark in the local market.

Honda's entry to the luxury vehicle segment combines opulence with state-of-the-art driving technology. Aptly named the all-new Legend 3.5 Sport Hybrid Super Handling All-Wheel Drive, it adopts a high-output and fuel-efficient hybrid system that combines one engine with three electric motors. This combination enables the all-new Legend to deliver a total maximum output of 380PS @ 6500RPM and 462Nm at 4700RPM of torque, making it the most powerful Honda car to date.

Four engines comprise the main components of the all-new Legend's advanced hybrid system. Under the hood of the all-new Legend is an Earth Dreams Technology V6 3.5 L direct injection i-VTEC with Variable Cylinder Management (VCM) engine paired with a 7-speed dual clutch transmission (DCT) with an integrated high-performance electric motor. Located in the rear is a Twin Motor Unit (TMU), as well as an intelligent power unit equipped with high-power lithium-ion batteries. Each rear motor is independently controlled and can provide either drive or deceleration power to its wheel in any ratio. This advanced torque vectoring system provides highly stable handling performance in a wide range of driving situations. Lastly, situated at the center of the vehicle is a power drive unit that controls the three electric motors.

The Legend's advanced hybrid system automatically combines front-wheel drive, rear-

wheel drive, or all-wheel drive with Engine drive, Electric Vehicle Drive, or Hybrid drive as a response to the driver's inputs and driving conditions to ensure optimal performance and outstanding fuel economy. Overall, this powertrain delivers power similar to a V8 engine and a 4-cylinder, like fuel economy.

The all-new Legend's Jewel-Eye LED headlights are one of the first things you notice about the luxury sedan. Sporting eight LED bulbs and sixteen precisely focused lenses that result to better visibility on the road in any condition, the headlamps are not only functional, but beautiful to look at as well. LEDs were also used for the Legend's front and rear fog lights, turn signal lights and tail lamps.

Measuring 4,997 x 1,890 x 1,478mm (L x W x H) and with a wheelbase of 2,850mm, the vehicle is massive and projects a commanding presence. Styling-wise, it presents itself with an "aero-fused" exterior motif with its low, wide, and athletic stance. On the side, sharp, upswept bodylines create a stylish yet dynamic appeal. This aggressive look is complemented with a 19-inch noise-reducing alloy wheels to complete the look.

Inside, the all-new Legend is fitted with premium soft touch materials with elegant wood and metal accents. Perforated black milano leather seats are standard, with both front seats equipped with climate-controlled 8-way power and 4-way lumbar support.

Unique to the all-new Legend is the lack of a conventional shifter that is replaced by a new fully electronic push-button gear selector. This feature allows drive mode selection with a push of a button, and is supplemented with its Electric Parking Brake (EPB) with Auto Brake Hold feature.

Upping the ante in in-suite entertainment is the built-in ultra-premium Krell audio system that comes with 14 speakers and an amplifier that sets a new benchmark for in-car high-fidelity sound. The all-new Legend comes with smart entry with push start button; power tilt and telescoping steering; power sunroof; expanded rear door sunshade and dual screens; as well as an 8-inch navigation screen and a 7-inch touch screen.



As expected, the all-new Legend is loaded with safety features for both the driver and passenger. Honda utilized an advanced driver-assistive system called Honda SENSING that receives information from two different devices: one is a millimeter-wave radar that can be found in the front grille; and the other is a monocular camera mounted on the upper, inside part of the windshield. Through these sensing devices, several new convenience and safety functions were applied in the all-new Legend such as the Collision Mitigation Braking System (CMBS), Adaptive Cruise Control (ACC) with Low-Speed Follow (LSF), and Lane Keeping Assist System (LKAS).

Other standard driver-assist features include a multi-view camera system with four wide angle cameras located on the front grille, right and left door mirrors, and tailgate; Blind Spot Information (BSI); Cross Traffic Monitor (CTM); Vehicle Stability Assist (VSA); Hill Start Assist (HAS); Front (2) and Rear (4) Parking Sensors; and an Emergency Stop Signal and a Pop Up Hood for pedestrian safety.

The all-new Legend is readily available in crystal black pearl, white orchid pearl, and super platinum metallic with black milano leather interior. Other exterior colors such as gilded pewter metallic, pomegranate pearl, and graphite luster metallic are available upon order. Interior colors seacoast ivory milano leather and brown milano leather, are also available by order.

MUGEN and Modulo accessories are also made available, which can be purchased individually or as a package for added convenience and style. Available MUGEN accessories are Carbon Fiber Front Lower Spoiler, Carbon Fiber Ducktail Spoiler, Sports Luggage Mat, and 20-inch Aluminum Wheel. The Modulo accessories, on the other hand, include Front Corner Under Spoiler, Ducktail Spoiler, Door Lower Garnish, and Mudguard.

The all-new Legend is priced at PHP 4,380,000, and can be viewed and test driven exclusively at Honda Cars Global City and Honda Cars Greenhills.



Nissan Philippines Inc. celebrates second year; launches all-new Juke

Words and Photos by Mika Fernandez-David



As part of their celebration of their second year as a consolidated national sales company and delivering their brand promise of "Innovation that Excites," Nissan Philippines Inc. (NPI) added another successful nameplate to their stable: the Nissan Juke compact crossover.

First launched in Japan in 2010, the Juke received global attention because of its funky and eye-catching styling. The design was so unconventional, in fact, that opinions were always polarized, but whether you loved it or hated it, it was something not easily forgettable.

Combining the toughness of an SUV and the dynamism of a compact sports car in one vehicle, the Juke is hard to miss. It has boomerang LED combination lamps set high upon the hood that complements its round headlamps and fog lamps. It also features Nissan's signature V-grille coupled with an under guard intake to enhance its sporty exterior.

Inside, the Juke comes with a dark interior and modern appointments. The compact crossover seats five comfortably, and comes with a 60/40-split rear seat and flat load floor for added versatility.

The Juke features the new intelligent control display called the Integrated Control System or I-CON that controls drive and climate settings from the center stack. Drive settings include Normal, Sport, and Eco modes to suit different driving preferences and requirements.

For the Philippine market, the Juke will be powered by Nissan's HR16DE 1.6L DOHC gasoline engine, mated with the new generation Xtronic CVT. This combination promises 116PS of power and 154Nm of torque. Stability is courtesy of independent MacPherson strut fronts and torsion beam axle at the rear, and ships with 17-inch alloy wheels.

Safety features include dual front airbags, ABS with EBD, brake assist, an anti-theft system with immobilizer, as well as child protection locks and

ISO-FIX points. Other creature comforts include a push start system, rear parking camera, as well as cruise control.

The new Nissan Juke is priced at PHP 980,000 and will be available in solar yellow, red alert, black obsidian, and pearl white. The units will be shipped directly from Japan, with sales scheduled to commence in January of 2016.

For more information about the Juke, visit the Nissan website at www.nissan.ph



Volvo Philippines celebrates 21st anniversary with all-new XC90 preview

In celebration of its 21st year of operation, Volvo Philippines gave the country a sneak peek at the all-new Volvo XC90, a premium seven-seater SUV carrying the brand's Scandinavian DNA. It is the first vehicle to take on the company's new design direction and Scalable Product Architecture (SPA) technology.

The all-new XC90 comes with high-end safety features, better powertrain mechanism, a powerful and eco-friendly engine, as well as exceptional interior aesthetics. Comfortable seats cradle passengers in the cabin, with those in the second and third row seats getting more space thanks to the innovative and ergonomic seat design. Sprucing everything up is Nappa leather with wood accents adorned with handcrafted details, including diamond-cuts for the ignition button and volume control.

On the interior's center console is a touch-enabled screen giving passengers access into the new in-car control system dubbed as Sensus. Also accessible through voice commands, Sensus allows drivers easy access to vehicle information via the digital instrumentation and HUD, while also being compatible with cloud-based apps on your smartphone.



The all-new XC90 is powered by a lineup of two-liter, four-cylinder Drive-E powertrains sipping less fuel while giving the XC90 more range. Noteworthy is the D5 twin turbo diesel engine variant capable of outing 228PS and 470Nm of torque while achieving a fuel mileage of 5.7l/100km. A T6 petrol engine variant with a supercharger capable of producing 324PS and 400Nm of torque will also be available. All engine tiers will be mated to an 8-speed automatic gearbox.



Five Firearms we want for Christmas this year

Words by Ren Alcantara

All things considered, I think we've all been pretty good here at *Gadgets* this year. There are no outstanding warrants against us, nor are there pending court cases, or anything remotely similar. If Santa is out there, I think he and I need to have a word. If he is a subscriber to this fine magazine, however, we're going to give him a hand (and do all you folks out there a favor), and list down a few of the firearms we'd like to see under the tree this season.

BOBERG XR9

At the top of the list is an odd little specimen from Boberg Arms in the USA. If you haven't heard of them, or their fine pistol before, we don't really blame you. We had no idea it existed until a short while ago either. While on the outside, it doesn't look much more than another pocket nine, a lot of engineering has gone into the pistol, which makes it interesting. Firstly, rounds are loaded into the magazine backwards as compared against traditional pistol mags. This is because they have employed an interesting lifter/loader mechanism that pulls the round from the magazine and loads it into the breech of the firearm. This is done to decrease the overall length of the XR9 as much as possible. It's a little picky with ammo, though it is reported to work flawlessly with those brands and variants the manufacturer recommends.



<http://community.bobergarms.com/>

TCM 22 SINGLE STACK

The first time we heard of the 22 TCM, we were very interested to see what it could do. Everything about it seemed superb, from the round, to the manufacturer, and the platform, save for one thing: the original 22 TCM platform was a double-stack 1911. This is an acquired taste, and those of us who love the slim profile of the 1911a1 were wondering if conversion kits would be made available for single stacks. Here is the answer. Armscor is now producing the 22 TCM pistol in a single-stack 1911. With it, you get 10+1 rounds of the potent 22 TCM, with all the flat trajectory, low recoil, and sweet shooting we've come to expect from the round. There currently isn't any word as to when the pistol will be made available in the Philippines, but we're hoping that's going to be somewhere around December 25.



<http://www.thefirearmblog.com/>

SIG SAUER P229 LEGION SERIES

While a lot about this pistol is marketing hype, there's something about the Legion P229 that just makes me want one. It might be the air of exclusivity, sexy Legion gray PVD coating, or beautiful G10 grips, but I want this pistol, and I'm not even a fan of the Sig. Apart from the upgrades mentioned above, you also get trigger tuning, high visibility combat sights, a unique pistol case, knife, and challenge coin, plus a membership to the exclusive Legion club. There, you get special Legion-only offers, gear, and other goodies. Again, it's mostly a marketing thing as the upgrades cost less individually applied than the overall cost would imply, but that's not the point. It's just so awesome.



<http://legionseries.com/>

ARSENAL STRIKE ONE

Say what you want about the actual effects of a low bore axis, but I'm going to try and get my hand as high up on my pistol as I possibly can. The Arsenal Strike One lets you do that like no other pistol in the market today. Unlike Browning's tilting barrel design that is employed in practically every non-straight blowback semi-auto pistol around today, the barrel on the Strike One moves straight back and forward, employing a locking block to keep everything in place while chamber pressures drop to a reasonable level, and lets the barrel sit so low in the frame. The gun is also quite a bit different from all the other pistols available today, thanks to the low bore axis. For those too weirded out, don't worry: it's still a regular polymer-framed wondernine with no external triggers, much like the Glocks you know and (probably) love. Speaking of which...



<http://hamster3d.com/>

GLOCK 43

Yes, I know... It's not all that much more difficult to conceal a 26. Yes, there are other firearms that are as small or smaller, and, well, it's not as exciting as a lot of other guns out there. Still, it's a Glock, and interestingly, the first Glock I've found I wanted. I don't have a very large frame, so carrying large firearms isn't really a thing I can get away with. A single stack Glock in 9mm is something that I'd been hoping would happen for a while now, and it's about as I expected. Small, reliable, and in a caliber I'm confident in. I know, being a 1911 fan should mean I'm repulsed at the very mention of the Glock brand, but I have to be honest, this is a pistol that I think I would enjoy having. If it turns out it's a bit of a dud, I can always sell it and use the cash to buy a Glock 26.



<http://www.thefirearmblog.com/>

There they are. Five of the pistols we wish Santa would wrap up nice, and tuck under the tree. Some of them aren't all that easy to get locally (which is probably why we want them so much), but give us the chance, and we'd take any and all of them.



METAL GEAR SOLID V THE PHANTOM PAIN

TACTICAL ESPIONAGE OPERATIONS

Words by Jose Alvarez

Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain

Developer: Kojima Productions

Publisher: Konami

Platforms: PC, PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One

My first encounter with the *Metal Gear* series was way back in 1998, around the release of *Metal Gear Solid* for the PlayStation. At the time, many action-adventure games revolved around killing enemies, while the *Metal Gear* series emphasized not killing bad guys, but rather, getting around them to get to other objectives, a novel concept for its time. This was a departure from games where killing as many enemies as possible was the objective, and a vital step forward in the sophistication of the action-adventure genre.

Metal Gear Solid V: The Phantom Pain takes place in an open world environment. You play as Punished/Venom Snake, and the theme of achieving objectives while remaining undetected still plays a huge role in the game. You can go on missions from Mother Base, which is also accessible by smartphone through a companion app. While you are doing missions, you can also use the Fulton surface-to-air recovery system to capture enemy soldiers and send other objects to Mother Base for your own use during missions, and you even have the option to upgrade what you have captured. Snake can also find money for Mother Base on missions, which can be used to upgrade the appearance, abilities, and weapons for Snake. One unique modification is Snake's prosthetic arm which can be turned into a taser, or even used as a drone.

Unlike previous installments where you had to go from point A to point B, *Phantom Pain* allows you to approach missions by land or air, depending on player preference. The game also features a day/night cycle, which could alter enemy movement patterns. Weather such as sandstorms and rain can also affect how the game is played. One can

accelerate time by using the *Phantom Cigar*. The way you complete missions can affect how other missions are played out—for example, taking out certain enemy targets can open up new areas. You also get to use AI companions such as Quiet, a female sniper; D-Horse, a horse with a saddle for carrying equipment; D-Walker, a mobile weapon platform used for taking out enemy vehicles; and D-Dog, a wolf that can assist you in missions. How you interact with each companion will affect their abilities and effectiveness during missions. In addition, you can call in helicopter support or send people out to scout an area. In addition to traveling on foot, horseback or vehicle, you can also climb rock faces in mountainous areas.

For those who enjoy multiplayer, there will be two modes: *Metal Gear Online*, which came out on consoles last October 6 and will be rolling out for PC users on January 2016; and *Forward Operating Base*. Mother Base has been slated for an expansion which players can use as forward bases to generate resources and income for single-player use. However, you will have to defend these bases from other players. The attacking team objective is to

steal resources and the defending team will have to defend their bases from being overrun. You can even call in your friends to help you during story missions, and you can customize your bases' security, staffing and layout to your preference. Whether the player wins or loses, the enemy forward operating base is revealed, so that you can go and counter-attack.

The customization and replay value of *The Phantom Pain* are endless. Whether you're taking out enemy forces on your own or getting your friends together to storm an enemy base, *The Phantom Pain* is proof that you don't have to run in with guns blazing—sometimes you have to keep a low profile when it comes to action-adventure games.

This was a departure from games where killing as many enemies as possible was the objective, and a vital step forward in the sophistication of the action-adventure genre.





Photographer: Juan Tapayan
Where: Coron, Palawan
It was my first time to visit the beautiful island of Coron, Palawan. I was transported to a magical place, with breathtaking scenery and magnificent views. I was able to see the unique cloud formation in all its glory presented itself before me. To me it seemed like a part of me to that wondrous island in the sky.



Photographer: Danny Anger
Where: Manila, Philippines
I was able to see the beautiful island of Coron, Palawan. I was transported to a magical place, with breathtaking scenery and magnificent views. I was able to see the unique cloud formation in all its glory presented itself before me. To me it seemed like a part of me to that wondrous island in the sky.

My Own Personal Philippines photo exhibit

The Ayala Alabang Camera Club held its 13th Annual Photo Exhibit last September 26 to October 7, 2015, at the Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center.



Photographer: Ronald Hilana
Where: Baccara, Ilocos Norte
This photo portrays a Filipino worker as an epitome of hardwork and industry. Like myself and many of us who work hard and persevere amidst life's difficulties, we all can relate to this image, showing that beneath a Filipino worker is a heart committed to provide for the family he so loves.

The exhibit showcased photos that sought to answer the question "What is the Philippines to you?" instead of the usual "It's More Fun in the Philippines" tourism-oriented photos. AACC club members displayed images that drew on their experiences, insights, and knowledge. It was evident to viewers that the members answered the question through their hearts and souls.

Exhibit partners included Sonria, the Cultural and Tourism Office of the City of Muntinlupa, Sigma, Alabang Town Centre, Fujifilm Philippines, Canon, Nikon, Gouache, Playa Laiya, Henry's Professional, Insular Life, Sarabia Optical, ABB Architecturals, Trends Travelmart, DLSZ Batch 2014 PA, Friends of Ronald, Barangay Ayala Alabang, Ayala Alabang Village Association, and Gadgets Magazine.



Photographer: Randy Gonzalez
Where: Dumaguete, Negros Occidental
I often stop and listen to street performers. Many are the bikers, but all their time with experience and talent. I was able to see the beautiful island of Coron, Palawan. I was transported to a magical place, with breathtaking scenery and magnificent views. I was able to see the unique cloud formation in all its glory presented itself before me. To me it seemed like a part of me to that wondrous island in the sky.



Photographer: Bobot Go
Where: Balen, Cuzon
The waves look like angel's wings, but it was actually a fisherman in a fishing boat that became my guardian angel when he pulled me out of that same tumultuous blue waters when I was 12.



Photographer: Aly Reyes
Where: Mt. Pinatubo, Tarlac
I feel this is an ideal representation of the rural scene in the vast countryside of the Philippines which attracts the city people to visit and experience a world gradually moving at the speed of LIFE.



Photographer: Paulo Calamban
Where: Boracay, Aklan
I took this photo when I brought my cousins from abroad to Boracay. They have always boasted of the famous beaches they have visited abroad, but when they saw this beautiful sunset by the beach, they were awed and thought it was breathtaking. This photo will always remind of that moment when I felt proud of our Philippines and the many places our country has to offer.



Ayala Alabang Camera Club officers with special guests during the formal opening (L-R): secretary Boboy Ringler; exhibit curator Jay Javier; vice-president Randy Gonzales; president Michael Natividad; former president Aly Reyes; guest of honor Gunther Diechmann; former president Melai Lopez; Sonria Alabang chief operating officer Miriam O. Katigbak; Muntinlupa City representatives Tez Navarro and Glenn Ricaroz.



Photographer: Jules Capucion
Where: Angono, Rizal
Art fascinates me. I stand in awe in front of beautiful paintings, sculptures, sketches, murals and stunning photography. This photo reminds me of my photography influence and idol, Elliot Erwitt, who always find some funny poses and hosts happening in art galleries.



Photographer: John Mervicio
Where: Baguio City
I have been away from my hometown for 10 years but I still love it. I have been to many places but I still love my hometown. I have been to many places but I still love my hometown. I have been to many places but I still love my hometown.



Ayala Alabang Camera Club Officers (L-R): vice president Randy Gonzales; secretary Boboy Ringler; and president Michael Natividad.



Photographer: Benjie Balarbar
Where: Infanta, Quizon
Our church ministry group visited a fisherman's village in Infanta, Quizon for a mission. While observing their daily activities, I learned that old and young people in the village helped the fishermen bring their fishing boat to the shore for a fee, not in terms of money, but for a few pieces of their fresh catch of the day.



Ayala Alabang Camera Club Officers (L-R): vice president Randy Gonzales; secretary Boboy Ringler; and president Michael Natividad.



Photographer: Mike Natividad
Where: Angono, Tarlac
I recall my brother taking care of fighting cocks. They all ended up in the frying pan.

Guide to going Solar

Words by Fatima Alba and Sef Alba Carandang



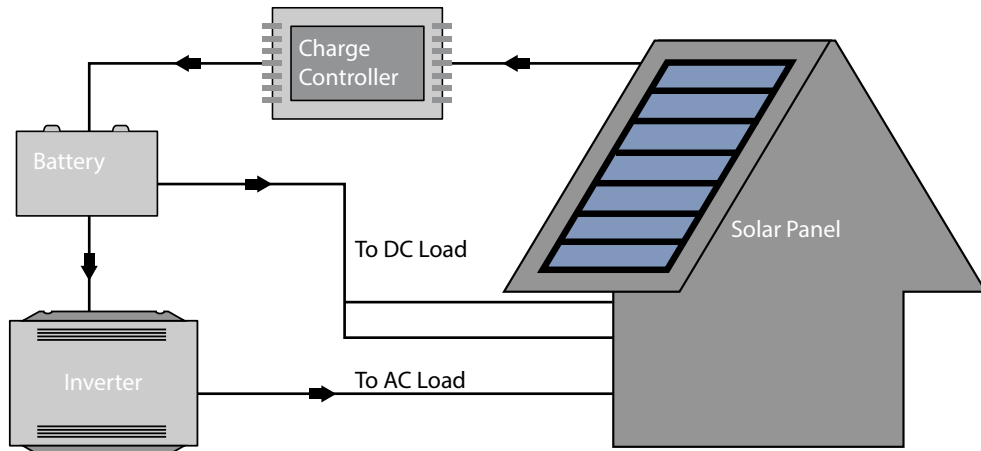
In 2012, young entrepreneur and green energy advocate Giancarlo Capco established Calrigger Technologies with the vision of bringing innovation and advancement to Filipino families, communities, and businesses.

A commerce graduate with a major in business management from the Far Eastern University, Gian was an Outstanding YMCA Student Leader in 2005. In 2006, he represented the country in a World Business Plan Competition sponsored by the Harvard Business School where he garnered international recognition and multiple awards for his invention: the Sanitary Aqua Vendo Water Vending Machine for Public Toilets.

Gian is also co-founder of Global Advocacies Towards Empowered Societies International Missions (GATES IM), a non-profit comprised of about 50 young business professionals worldwide who are passionate about the sustainable development of communities.

Calrigger's products and services include solar and wind technology, defense system technologies, survival gear and emergency tools, and website development and graphic design.

For more information, visit www.calrigger.com.



Whether you're an environmentalist concerned about clean, renewable energy or someone looking to lower electricity costs in your home or business, solar power is a sustainable and exciting solution. This is especially relevant for countries like the Philippines that enjoy many hours of sunshine almost all throughout the year. And with solar panels and their installation becoming less expensive and more accessible in recent years, there is no reason why ordinary homeowners—the low to middle income earners—can't tap into this awesome energy source.

Here's what you need to know before investing in and putting up your own solar energy system.

DO YOUR HOMEWORK

Not all solar energy systems are the same, and the cost varies greatly depending on the size and specifications of the set up. Make a list of the items and appliances that you plan to use solar energy for. Solar power works well for most appliances except for those that use an electric heat element such as a water heater or electric stove. From there, work backwards to compute your energy requirements and get an idea of the size of the set up you will need: too small and you may not have enough power for your needs, too big and you may be spending money needlessly. In order to be cost-effective, make sure you invest in a set up that fits your purpose.

FIND A SOLAR PANEL PRO

Talk to a few solar providers before you commit to a panel installation. You may find that pricing is similar, so you will have to base your final decision on other equally important things such as reputation and willingness of the supplier to discuss solar set-up options with you in detail. From here you can already gauge the kind of after sales support you are likely to get.

KNOW HOW YOUR CHOSEN SET UP WORKS

Arming yourself with knowledge will help you maximize efficiency and troubleshoot simple problems that may be encountered after installation.

Avail of any training that your solar provider can give you.

The basic components include the solar panel, charge controller, battery, inverter, alternating current (AC) line, and direct current (DC) line.

1. Solar panel

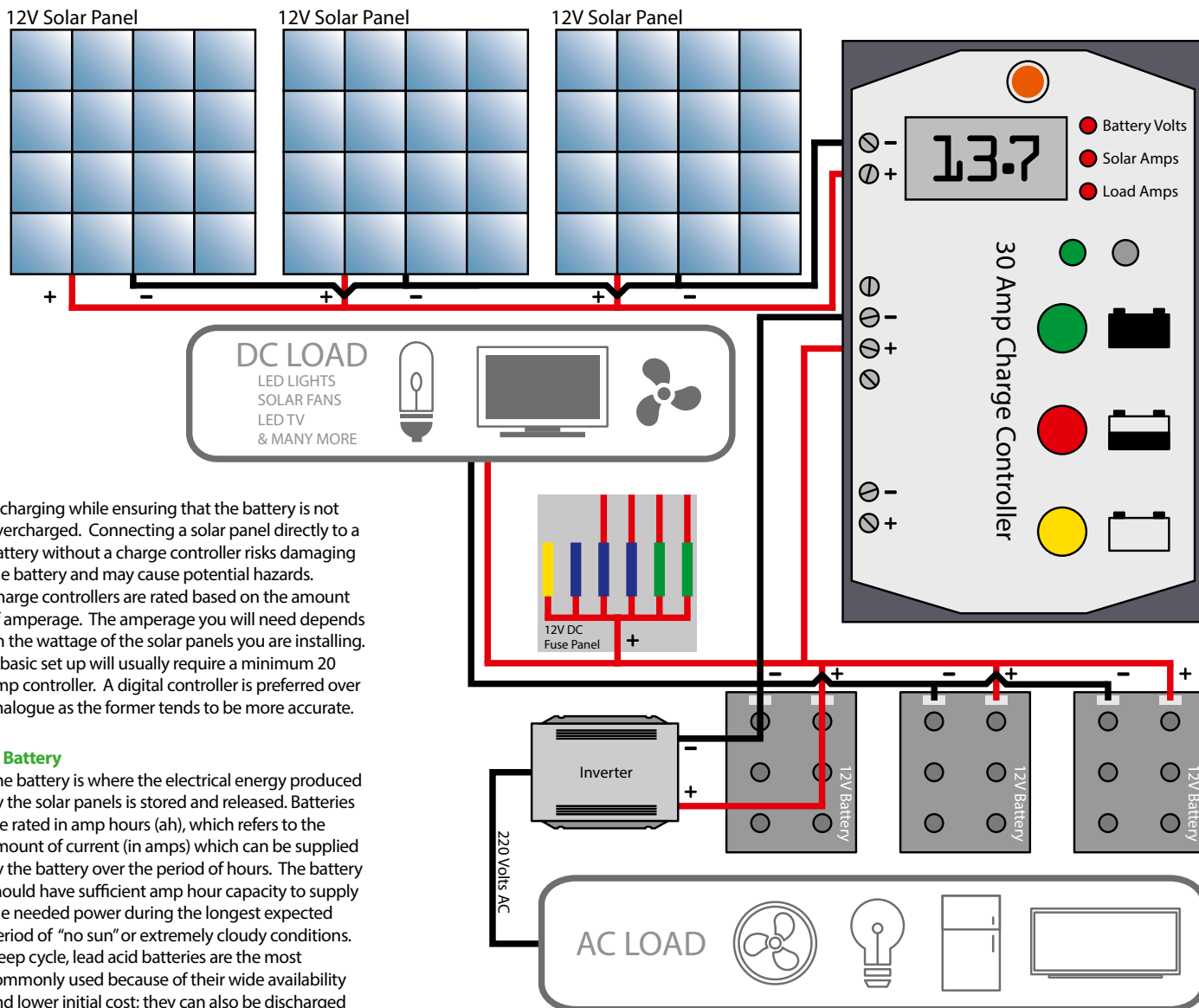
A solar panel is made of the natural element, silicon, which becomes electrically charged when exposed to sunlight. The output of a solar panel is usually stated in watts. The wattage you will need depends on how much power you intend to produce. A basic set up (non-commercial, non-industrial) will usually require a minimum 100-watt solar panel. A monocrystalline panel (usually dark blue in color) is preferred over a polycrystalline one because it captures sunlight more efficiently.



Choose a high quality solar panel with a warranty of at least five years.

2. Charge controller

A charge controller (or charge regulator) is directly connected to the solar panel to regulate the transfer of power from the panel to a battery. It also monitors the state-of-charge of the battery, and allows the current to enter the battery as it



is charging while ensuring that the battery is not overcharged. Connecting a solar panel directly to a battery without a charge controller risks damaging the battery and may cause potential hazards. Charge controllers are rated based on the amount of amperage. The amperage you will need depends on the wattage of the solar panels you are installing. A basic set up will usually require a minimum 20 amp controller. A digital controller is preferred over analogue as the former tends to be more accurate.

3. Battery

The battery is where the electrical energy produced by the solar panels is stored and released. Batteries are rated in amp hours (ah), which refers to the amount of current (in amps) which can be supplied by the battery over the period of hours. The battery should have sufficient amp hour capacity to supply the needed power during the longest expected period of "no sun" or extremely cloudy conditions. Deep cycle, lead acid batteries are the most commonly used because of their wide availability and lower initial cost; they can also be discharged and re-charged hundreds or even thousands of times. Choose a sealed, no-maintenance version over a wet cell battery.

4. Inverter

An inverter is a device that changes the direct current (DC) power stored in the battery to a standard 220-volt alternating current (AC) electricity. Nearly all lighting and appliances are designed to use AC power, so it takes an inverter to make the switch from AC to DC. The size of the inverter should be at least double that of your energy requirement. A basic set up usually requires a minimum 500 to 1000 watts inverter. Choose an inverter with an external fuse for added safety.

5. AC line

The AC line is connected to the inverter and supplies standard 220V AC power. You can plug in your standard items and appliances here. Just bear in mind that the wattage of each item or appliance you use will determine how much power is consumed or how long the power stored in the battery will last especially during periods of "no sun" (like at night) when the solar panel and battery are not charging. That's why planning ahead is very important to make sure your set up is of the correct size and specifications to meet your energy needs. Add a fuse and switch in every AC line that you will create for added safety.

6. DC line

The DC line is connected directly to the battery (again, integrate special fuses and circuit breakers specifically designed for DC power line for that added safety) and does not go through the inverter. It supplies 12V DC power which can be used for DC or solar compatible appliances. The advantage of adding a DC line is that it makes your set-up more energy efficient. For example, a DC solar compatible electric fan consumes around 15 watts per hour while a standard 220V electric fan consumes around 65-80 watts per hour. While not all appliances have a DC compatible counterpart, investing in those that do can make your solar energy system more cost-efficient in the long run. Aside from electric fans, DC solar compatible lighting, television, refrigerators and air conditioners are slowly making their way into the market.

CONSERVE ENERGY

Do this even before or while you are thinking about installing a solar energy system. We need to consume with our children in mind—this goes for food, water, energy, and everything else on this planet.

Worldwide, solar technology is advancing as more people recognize the need for solutions that are better for the environment. Imagine a world powered by the sun and be part of the solution.



The authors, pictured here with their beautiful mom, recently installed a basic solar energy system at their family farm in Botolan, Zambales. Their PHP 25,000 investment includes a 100 watt solar panel, 24 amp solar master 12V battery, 30 amp charger controller and 1000 watt inverter—plus a few solar-ready bulbs, wires and even a solar fan. Supplies, training, and excellent after-sales support provided by Calrigger!

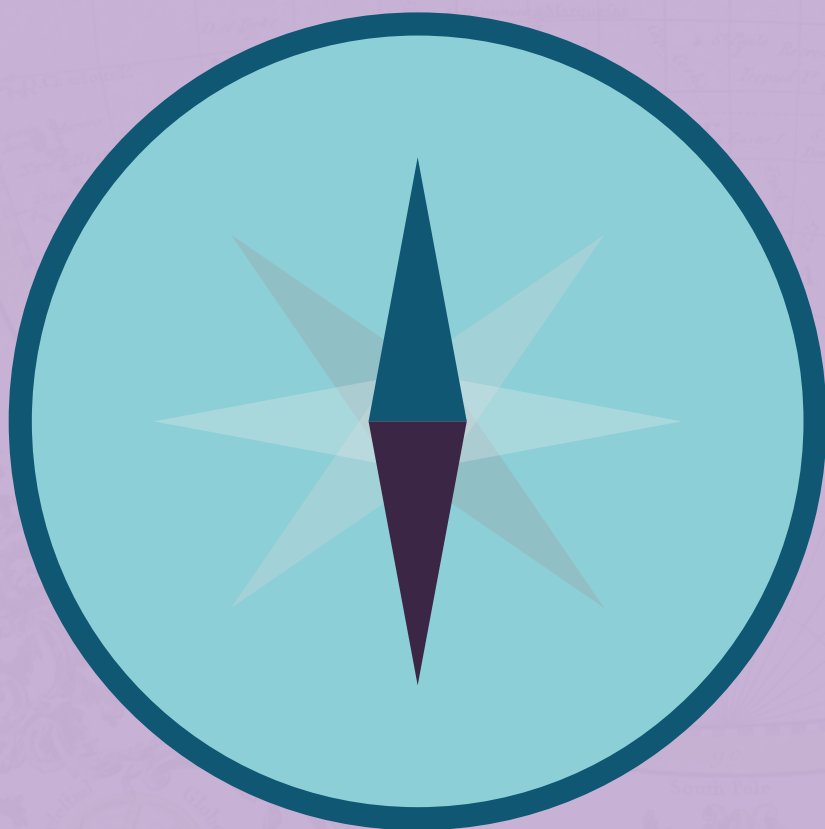
How to make your Travel Roadbook

Words by Presy Alba | Art by Emmanuel Luz

I love to travel. I love not only the adventure of the actual journey; I also take joy in planning the itinerary and researching the places and fun things to do at each destination. It is also great fun looking for discounts, freebies, and other ways to do more for less. To make sure that all my effort and research pays off, I prepare a travel roadbook.

Roadbooks are used by rally drivers for multiday drives to make sure they are on the right path. The daily activity includes instructions and driving directions, coordinates and GPS of the stops, etc., and that is exactly what I do.

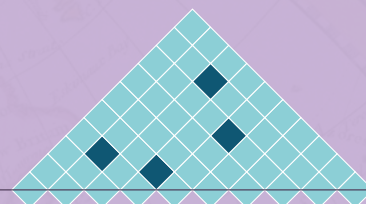
What is great about preparing your own roadbook before you depart from home, is that you'll have everything on hand in your phone or tablet, even when you have no access to the Internet. In my experience, having prior knowledge about the places I visit and what to expect helps me travel with confidence.



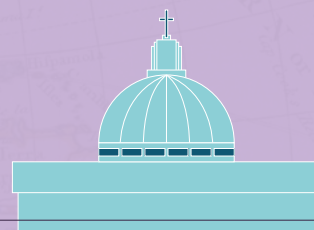
PREPARATORY STEPS—Do Your Research

Once you've selected where you want to go, but before you make your travel arrangements, start doing some research as to the best days/times to go to a particular place, then arrange your itinerary around that.

Knowing the best times or days to visit will allow you to maximize your time with less hassle and stress. With a little patience and the help of the Internet, you'll know that the best day to visit the Louvre is on a Wednesday or Friday because it is open from 9:00AM to 9:45PM.



If you want to see the Pope up close, first make sure he will be in Rome during your visit, then make sure you're in Rome on a Tuesday so you can get entrance tickets to St. Peter's Square for the Wednesday morning papal audience.



Browsing the web will also let you know that you can also save a few bucks if you go to Toledo on a Sunday as entrance to the Alcazar de Toledo is free. Then you can spend the whole morning in the Alcazar and explore the Museo del Ejercito. Go to lunch at around 1:00PM then proceed to the Cathedral, which opens to tourists at 2:00PM on Sundays to see the awe-inspiring painting of the Disrobing of Christ by El Greco.



The big cities—Paris, Rome, Madrid, etc.—are great places to visit, but exploring the countryside can be a different experience altogether. If you do decide to go out of the major cities, renting a car and driving is the practical choice, as you can be more flexible with your schedule.

Once you've finalized your itinerary—i.e., obtained the necessary visas, purchased your airline tickets, booked all your hotels—purchase entrance tickets to the major museums (Louvre, Vatican Museum, Prado) online so that you can skip the long lines. There's usually a special lane for visitors who have pre-purchased their tickets.

THE ITINERARY

The itinerary is always Page 1 of my roadbook. I do this on a table format for each day, from departure to arrival, with the following columns: DEPARTURE Date, Time & Place, Flight# | ARRIVAL Date, Time & Place | Hotel Name and Address.

Here's a sample of the first page of my most recent roadbook.

DAILY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

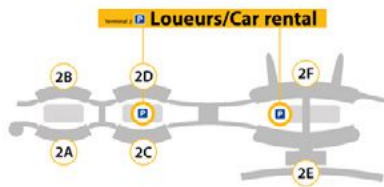
In the succeeding pages, I put in the daily activities with estimated travel times, distances, places of interest, and of course eating places. And I always add visual guides like location maps and schematics, as well as what road signs to look for.

Having a roadbook is a good way to organize your travel schedule but it does not mean that you cannot be flexible. To be realistic about it, you'll probably want to visit more places and do more activities than your schedule allows. But I pack my roadbook with all interesting places to visit anyway, then decide which ones look interesting or most achievable on the day of the visit.

DAY 1 | SEPTEMBER 15 TUESDAY

9:30 AM ARRIVE AT CDG T2C

10:30 PICKUP RENTAL CAR AT T2 EF CENTRAL CARPARK



11:00 DRIVE TO LE HAVRE | DISTANCE 219KMS FROM CDG | Estimated Travel time 3.5 Hours
ADDRESS: Place Jules Ferry, 76600 Le Havre, France
GPS Coordinates: Latitude: 49.491577 Longitude: 0.112769

LUNCH ON THE WAY TO LE HAVRE



DAY 2 | SEPTEMBER 16 WEDNESDAY

DAY TRIP -- NORMANDY

WWII MEMORIAL

OMAHA BEACH -- 143KM FROM LE HAVRE
Omaha Beach D Day Monument Avenue de la Libération,
14710 Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, France
Latitude: 49.370696 | Longitude: -0.879746

Musee Memorial d'Omaha Beach

Avenue de la Libération, Saint Laurent-sur-Mer

Gold Beach Evasion, --25.7KM from Omaha Beach
2 Avenue Maurice Schumann, 14960 Asnelles, France

Centre Juno Beach, --9.2km from Gold Beach
Voie des Français Libres, 14470 Courseulles-sur-Mer, France

Château de Fontaine-Henry, --10km from Juno Beach
3 Le Château, 14610 Fontaine-Henry, France
(Most spectacular chateau in Normandy)

Caen Castle, --13.8km from Chateau Fontaine Henry
14000 Caen, France (Built by William the Conqueror before he conquered England)

LISIEUX, FRANCE --63km from Caen [midway from Le Havre]
Les Buissonnets, 22 Chemin des Buissonnets, 14100 Lisieux, France
Lisieux Cathedral, Place François Mitterrand, 14102 Lisieux, France
Carmel de Lisieux, 37 Rue du Carmel, 14100 Lisieux, France
Basilica of Saint Thérèse, Avenue Jean XXIII, 14100 Lisieux, France

Nearby Towns

HONFLEUR, FRANCE --34KM from Le Havre
scenic seaside town; many good eating places

DEAUVILLE
TROUVILLE

| DEPARTURE | | | | ARRIVAL | | | HOTEL |
|-----------|---------------------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-------|---|
| DATE | TIME | PLACE | FLIGHT NO | DATE | TIME | PLACE | ADDRESS |
| 14-Sep | 11:30 | BCD | 5J 486 | 14-Sep | 12:45 | MNL | 5 hours @ MNL T3 |
| 14-Sep | 18:25 | MNL | EK333 | 14-Sep | 22:50 | DXB | 5 hours @ DXB T3 |
| 15-Sep | 4:10 | DXB | EK071 | 15-Sep | 9:30 | CDG | |
| 15-Sep | DRIVE TO LE HAVRE, FRANCE | | | | | | HOTEL SPA PASINO Place Jules Ferry, Le Havre |
| 16-Sep | in LE HAVRE, FRANCE | | | | | | |
| 17-Sep | | | | | | | |
| 18-Sep | | | | | | | |
| 19-Sep | | | | | | | |
| 20-Sep | DRIVE TO PARIS | | | | | | |
| 20-Sep | IN PARIS | | | | | | New Hotel Gare Du Nord 40 Rue de Saint Quentin, 10th arr., Paris GPS N 048 52.773; E 02 21.361 |
| 21-Sep | | | | | | | |
| 22-Sep | | | | | | | |
| 22-Sep | 10:55 | CDG | AZ319 | 22-Sep | 13:00 | FCO | AIR BNB ROME Via Cavour, 96, Rome, Lazio 00184, Italy |
| 23-Sep | IN ROME | | | | | | |
| 24-Sep | | | | | | | |
| 25-Sep | 11:55 | FCO | IB3231 | 25-Sep | 14:40 | MAD | AIR BNB MADRID Calle de Silva, 4 4, Madrid |
| 26-Sep | IN MADRID | | | | | | |
| 27-Sep | | | | | | | |
| 28-Sep | | | | | | | |
| 29-Sep | 15:30 | MAD | EK142 | 29-Sep | 0:45 | DXB | 2:15H @DXB |
| 30-Sep | 3:35 | DXB | EK332 | 23-Sep | 16:35 | MNL | OVERNIGHT MNL |
| 1-Oct | 9:35 | MNL | 5J 485 | 24-Sep | 10:45 | BCD | |

TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

On the last pages of the Roadbook, I keep copies of all my travel documents including my e-ticket, hotel vouchers, car rental confirmation, and other online booking confirmations, etc.

What's good about having a roadbook is that you can actually put in your thoughts and scribble remarks—even add photos to it every day—and you have an instant journal-cum-scrapbook of your whole trip.

TRANSLATOR

CITY GUIDE

Kakao Talk launches Open Chat



Kakao Philippines Corp. has just rolled out a new feature to its multi-platform messaging service, Kakao Talk. Open Chat is a feature that will enable users to interact with other users just by clicking on a link.

As opposed to regular chats, all chat rooms in Open Chat have designated URLs, which users can share via social media and other websites. Any Kakao Talk user can enter the chat room without having to provide personal information.

Open Chat was an answer to Kakao Talk users' request for "easier and more convenient ways to chat with new friends" and "ways to limit or control who (they) reveal (their) profiles to."

The new feature is aimed at those seeking fast and convenient ways of communication. People with the same interests can also converse with each other on Open Chat via links posted on social media and other websites. Students, in particular, can use it for group work, extracurricular activities, study sessions, and whatnot. They can also share an Open Chat link at online marketplaces when selling or purchasing second-hand items, ensuring their safety. Moreover, Open Chat can also serve as an interactive comment section for news providers, bloggers, and readers to discuss an article or blog entry; add an Open Chat link at the end of the post, and that's it.

Open Chats can be created by tapping the floating '+' button on the Chats tab and selecting 'Open Chat.' The host can then input his or her chat identity and set up a chat room. The host can choose a type of chat (1:1 chat or group chat), select a background photo, and simply press 'OK.' The Open Chat link will then go live. Open Chat can accommodate up to 500 users in a single chat room. The chat room's host can designate the maximum number of users that can participate.

Users can also enjoy Kakao Talk's other features such as Secret Group Chat and Star Chat. For more information, please visit facebook.com/kakaotalkph.

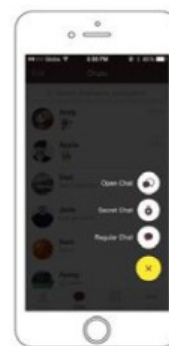
Open Chat



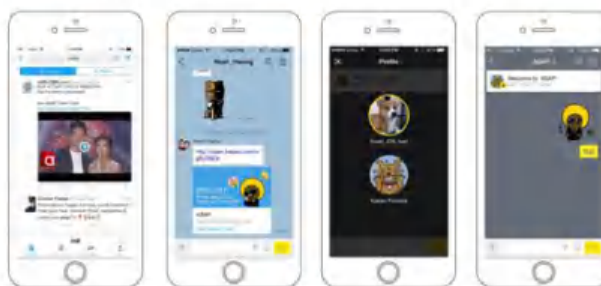
A feature that allows kakao talk users to begin chats with other users with a click of a link.

Open Chat Specifications

- Group chat up to 500 participants
- 1:1 Chat up to 50
- Each user can create up to only 10 links
- Creator can ban inappropriate users
- User can Report inappropriate users
- Picture, Video, Voice note, Contact, Location
- Android, iOS, PC



Participating in an Open Chat



EL CAPITAN TIPS AND TRICKS

Words by Presy Alba



Mac OS X El Capitan was officially released on September 30, 2015. Not everyone installed the update, and for many who did, except for the few minutes it took to update and the new El Capitan wallpaper, it seems like nothing dramatic really happened. Yes, your Mac works exactly like it did before, but if you take a closer look, you will appreciate the improvements Apple has made to make the user experience even better, and you will love using your Mac even more.

SPLIT VIEW

When you need to see two windows side-by-side, you don't need to manually adjust the windows; you can see both on full-screen mode using Split View. To enable this, click and hold the green full screen button on the upper left corner of an app window. Half of the screen will turn light-blue and when you drag the app to that part, it will snap to it full screen. You can then do the same to the other app and snap it to the other half of the screen. You can also press F3 (which opens mission control) and drag the app window you want to split with your full-screen window.



MISSION CONTROL

This unique Apple feature allows you to quickly see what applications are running in your computer at the moment and helps you perform multiple tasks more efficiently. You can open mission control several ways: 1) by clicking on the mission control icon on your dock; 2) by swiping 4 fingers up your trackpad; or 3) pressing F3 on your keyboard.



FIND YOUR CURSOR

The cursor sometimes gets lost in the jumble of stuff in your screen. To quickly locate it, all you need to do is wiggle your finger across the trackpad or give your mouse a shake and the pointer gets bigger and easier to spot.



SPOTLIGHT

With the El Capitan update, you can use spotlight not only to locate filenames and search your computer. You can now use Spotlight to do a web search for Vimeo and YouTube videos and you can even use natural language to pose your search question.



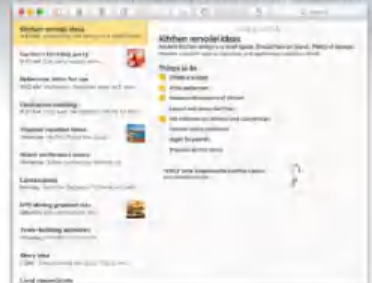
MAIL

The Mail app on your Mac now behaves the same way as it does on iOS: swipe left to send to trash, or swipe right to mark as read. With this update, you can now minimize the compose window and go back to your inbox. What's more, multiple compose windows show as tabs in full-screen mode.



NOTES

The improved Notes app allows you to create checklists, make bulleted lists, and add a variety of media files, which you can also share with others.



SAFARI

You can now pin your favorite webpages as tabs in Safari. To do this, just open the site you want in Safari, then right click on the tab, and click "Pin Tab" or you can drag the tab all the way to the left of the tab bar, and it will automatically turn into a pinned site.



You can also mute sound from a specific webpage by clicking on the Audio icon. And you can also remove clutter from a webpage and read the content by turning on the Safari Reader. To activate reader, all you need to do is click on the reader button (which looks like the same icon for paragraph alignment) on the left side of the navigation fieldbox. You can also change the background color and the text font by clicking the font icon on the right side of the field box.

ErgoHome opens SM Aura showroow; launches *Snowsound Acoustic Panel* by Caimi

Words by Mia Carisse Barrientos



The rising popularity of condo living has seen many trade their street-level homes in exchange for homes up in the sky. Who wouldn't want an efficient, affordable living space that's in the heart of the city, easily accessible, and offers amenities just an elevator ride away from where you live? But as with many other things, choosing a condo property also has its drawbacks. One of the issues surrounding condo living is limited space availability. ErgoHome aims to resolve this layout concern with their multifunction furniture pieces that can turn cramped spaces into well-organized, breathable, and worthy investments.

The country's leading distributor and manufacturer of ergonomic furniture, Ergo Contracts Philippines, Inc., has just opened its newest ErgoHome showroom located at the third level of SM Aura Premier, BGC, where workers and dwellers in the south can freely visit to see that a small space isn't much of a limitation.

The basic concept behind ErgoHome products are comfort, aesthetics, and efficiency.

ErgoHome claims that with its furnishing solutions, a small studio unit can be expanded to at least twice its size.

The company creates ready-made and custom-build pieces for the living room, kitchen, bedroom, and even offices.

These space-saving solutions range from Murphy beds, ergonomic shelving units, collapsible/expandable tables, modular sofas, Tatami-inspired flooring with storage underneath, to office chairs. With these versatile pieces, you can single-handedly arrange your home depending on how you need and want it to appear. You can choose to easily roll your whole kitchen in to a cabinet when your friends are coming over, or turn your living room into a bedroom by simply pulling your bed down at night.

With 30 years of expertise under its belt, ErgoHome is committed to deliver total customer satisfaction. Its units are made with some of the finest materials currently available in the market and shaped accordingly to today's urban dwellers taste.

Once you're decided, ErgoHome's pool of talented builders and designers will gladly help you out with the layout and right pieces to go into your space. Upon agreement, it would take just about a month to fully furnish the condo unit. After the unit turnover, your ergonomic space will be ready to welcome guests.

Snowsound by Caimi

Just recently, Ergo has entered a partnership with Caimi Brevetti, one of the leading manufacturers in design oriented furniture, accessories for office, and contract furniture. Alongside the opening of ErgoHome's newest showroom, Ergo together with Caimi Brevetti launched Snowsound.

As working in a noise-polluted environment reduces productivity and can be often stressful, Snowsound by Caimi Brevetti was created. These acoustic panels are built with patented sound-absorbing technology, designed to selectively

absorb noise at various frequencies. With several of these panels mounted onto walls, or standing on the floor, rooms are freed of distracting noises. As these panels absorb sound in a balanced way, there's also an increase in sound definition, which is perfect for recording studios.

Apart from its superb sound absorbing performance, you can also trust the aesthetics, design, and ease of use of Snowsound acoustic panels. Surfaces are covered with fire retardant polyester bonded to the inner wadding, forming a single body without breaks. These panels are 1.4 inches thin, less than 6 pounds in weight, easy to clean, and inexpensive.

There are also varieties of Snowsound panels that come out like pieces of art. They come in unconventional shapes and colors and are signed by well-known designers: Mitesco by Michele De Lucchi, Corista by Lorenzo Palmeri, and Flap by Alberto and Francesco Meda. Corista panels (62 inches x 17 inches) are free standing, with an optional base; Mitesco panels (62 inches x 17 inches) are free standing, hanging, or wall mounted; and Flap panels (23 inches x 19 inches) are smaller or ceiling mounted, and can tilt and rotate 360 degrees.

For more information about Snowsound Acoustic Panels and ErgoHome products, contact Ergo Office sales representative at 810-8888. Like them on Facebook, www.facebook.com/ErgoContracts and www.facebook.com/ErgoHomePhilippines, or visit www.ergo.com.ph, and www.ergohome.com.ph.



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Kaspersky Lab launches newest flagship security solutions

With the advancement of tech and the Internet, security fortification in devices has been the focus of manufacturers as more and more wicked minds begin to shift their interest in breaking their way in this thriving market. Kaspersky Lab has always been at the forefront of trustworthy security solutions and continue to improve their products to keep users away from the prying eyes of cybercriminals.

To combat virtual foes and protect its users' private information, Kaspersky Lab has just unveiled its newest set of security solutions equipped with enhanced privacy features to deliver top-class security without slowing your device down. The Kaspersky Internet Security (KIS), Kaspersky Anti-Virus (KAV), and Kaspersky Internet Security – Multi-Device (KIS-MD) are developed with various technologies to protect what matters most to its users: privacy, data, identity, money, and the devices where the softwares are installed.

Kasperky Lab's newest consumer security suite comes with features such as Private Browsing, Change Control, Privacy Cleaner, and Webcam Protection.

Private Browsing

We all know that we give out more information than what we think we are giving when we sign up for social networking sites or just by merely browsing the net. Social networks, advertising, and analytical agencies access our browser activities, locations, search history, and whatnot, and resell it, thus the contextual ads that randomly pop up in our browsers.

The Private Browsing feature removes such data from the Internet traffic and reports any blocked



requests to the user via a dedicated plugin. It also does more than preventing users from being identified via cookie files, or warning sites that it does not wish to transmit data that could track users; it makes sure that this type of data will not leave the device.

Change Control

Additional extensions are commonly incorporated on the user's device without them knowing that such as a freeware was installed. This could affect the performance of the browser, change the default search engine, install harmful plugins, and slyly modify network and system configurations without the device owner's consent.

Change Control detects any process attempting to introduce such changes, reports that to the user, and asks for the process to be permitted or blocked.

Privacy Cleaner and Webcam Protection

On top of all the aforementioned security features, you also have an updated Privacy Cleaner tool which helps remove all traces of user activity from a Windows computer.

The Webcam Protection feature, on the other hand, helps prevent the interception of images

from the webcam. It notifies the user when it is accessed by legitimate applications and enables you to block all access to the camera.

Change Control, Privacy Cleaner, and Webcam Protection features are only available in the KIS and KIS MD versions. Meanwhile, you have all the essential protection against all types of malware in KAV.

All Kaspersky Lab's flagship home products come with simplified management across devices, include free automatic updates and upgrades, and can be accessed remotely via a MyKaspersky account.

These security solutions can be installed on platforms: Windows, OS X, and Android. Users of the KIS-MD can install the license on up to five devices.

The suggested retail prices of the products are as follows:

- KIS (1 user) – PHP 990
- KAV (1 user) – PHP 760, (3 users) – PHP 1,420
- KIS-MD (1 user) – PHP 1,980

All Kaspersky Lab products are now available in all leading IT stores nationwide.



Unify and WSI partner up for business-grade unified communication solutions



Daniel Mountstephen, Unify managing director for the ASEAN

Communications software and services company Unify has tapped Wordtext Systems, Inc. (WSI) as the carrier of its enterprise-oriented unified communications solutions from Germany.

Specifically, WSI will be distributing and supporting OpenScape Business, a voice and unified communications solution that allows employees of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to connect with each other whenever, wherever to boost productivity and customer service while minimizing running costs.

Jeffrey Garay, WSI product manager for Unify UC solutions, said OpenScape Business "brings together multiple networks, devices, and application into one easy-to-use platform that allows companies to engage collective efforts, energize business, and enhance operational performance."

Garay added, "You can access your email, voice mail, and fax on any device. You can do instant messaging or chat, conduct your own audio video web conferences, and do web collaboration with presentation/file sharing and white boarding. From voice applications to multimedia contact center solutions on premise-based, public cloud, private cloud, stand-alone, or multi-sites, this solution is flexible for any kind of infrastructure."

Using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP), companies can save up to 90-percent in conferencing costs and up to 30-percent voice calls cost through OpenScape Business. It features an intuitive and web-based management tool on top of being compatible with most network infrastructures.

WSI president Juan Chua added "WSI is eager to bring Unify's OpenScape Business solution to Philippine companies searching for innovative ways to cut communication costs and achieve seamless workforce mobility."

Meanwhile, Daniel Mountstephen, Unify managing director for the ASEAN, agrees, saying "We see a lot of potential for our solution to

take off in the Philippines, and our partnership with WSI simplifies the deployment and delivery of cost-saving enterprise voice and UC across enterprises."

"WSI is eager to bring Unify's OpenScape Business solution to Philippine companies searching for innovative ways to cut communication costs and achieve seamless workforce mobility."

Shoot for Perfection with the Starmobile KNIGHT Elite

According to Instagram, over 40 billion photos have been posted on the social media platform since its inception. Expect that number to double in no time, as there are 80 million new photos shared by users every day.

The thing is, though, only a tiny percentage of those photos can be referred to as "Instagram worthy." Not all photos can be deemed as such since not everyone possesses this combination: creativity and the right device. For the latter, one of the best options is the Starmobile KNIGHT Elite.

With it, you can be a "shooting star" whose Instagram feed is filled with captivating images! The KNIGHT Elite is capable of capturing breathtaking photos because of the unique Star Cam feature that boasts of these exclusive functions:



ReFocus allows you to choose the focal point of your shot after you've taken the photo. It simultaneously takes five photos at varying lengths then compresses them into a single file so you can select a single object (or face!) to focus on just by tapping on the area you want spotlighted.



Chroma Flash solves the problems posed by low-light environments. This function takes two photos in rapid succession, one with flash and one without it, and combines them into a single photo.



Opti Zoom shoots multiple photos simultaneously to enhance the texture and sharpness of your zoomed-in pictures. This results in clearer, cleaner, and smoother images.



Sounds great, right? Here are some examples of how the Star Cam's three key features could be utilized:

Foodies could use ReFocus to highlight the star dish from a delicious dinner spread.

Travelers could capture the perfect tourist shot even in low-light situations with Chroma Flash.

Concert goers will still be able to take high-quality photos of their favorite artists even though they're far from the stage thanks to Opti Zoom.

The Star Cam is, of course, just one of the many reasons why the Sarmobile KNIGHT Elite is an awesome phone—we've barely scratched the surface of the list of the smartphone's exceptional features. Speaking of scratching the surface, you won't be able to do that to the KNIGHT Elite's exterior because it's protected by scratch-resistant and durable Corning Gorilla Glass, making the device well fortified.

In terms of performance and functionality, the KNIGHT Elite shines thanks to its 64-bit Qualcomm Snapdragon 615 chipset, LTE connectivity, 16GB internal memory (with the option for expandable storage), two SIM slots, and the USB on-the-go (OTG) feature which lets you connect flash drives and accessories.

But perhaps the best thing about it is that you can enjoy all of these for only PHP 9,900 (you also get a free phone case and screen protectors).

The Sarmobile KNIGHT Elite truly is beautifully crafted for the most demanding smartphone users. To learn more, visit www.sarmobile.com.ph.

Epson ready for BIR ban on thermal paper

Following the announcement of the Department of Finance (DOF) and the Bureau of Internal Revenue's (BIR) ban on thermal paper in issuing receipts, Epson Philippines has come up with solutions to help customers who would be affected by the regulation.

The regulation stated that all taxpayers (individuals or businesses) are required to preserve their books of accounts for a period of ten years, which is an impossibility with receipts printed on thermal paper. In compliance, new business registrants must use non-thermal paper while existing registered taxpayers (who are currently using thermal receipts), have a three-year transition period to conform to the regulation.

Epson Philippines, the six-year No.1 brand in Point-of-Sale (POS) systems, is offering its reliable Epson printer technology that can be used for POS systems: dot matrix technology. For 17 years, the brand has been a trusted choice in the dot matrix printer category, holding an outstanding 96-percent market share.

What makes Epson POS systems built with dot matrix technology just the right substitute is its print

outs that do not fade; therefore perfect for financial record-keeping purposes.

Thea Austria, product manager of Epson Philippines' POS systems, said, "We are equipped to provide even more trusted solutions to our customers by aiding them to comply with the new government regulation banning the use of thermal paper for receipts. There's a reason why Epson's dot matrix printers dominate the category—new users would be delighted in the uncompromising reliability and efficacy of our printers."

Among Epson's wide range of advanced POS systems is the flagship model and industry-standard TM-U220 series. It is a robust, best-selling impact receipt printer, which is remarkably easy to use. Unparalleled in reliability, the U220 series features fast print speeds and two-color printing, qualities Epson is known for.

Apart from the U220 series, you have Epson's TM-U950 multifunction POS printer. It is a high performance 2.5 station printer that is a perfect choice for large POS systems used by mass merchandisers and other large retailers. It can



also handle a variety of printing formats including journals and slips. Other models include: TM-U295, TM-U590, and TM-U675.

Epson has extensive driver support for various platforms—ESC/POS, OPOS, Windows, JavaPOS, and Linux. For more information about Epson's dot matrix POS printers, visit www.epson.com.ph/pos.

BPI leads Philippine mobile banking with innovative platforms

Two prestigious award-giving bodies in the financial services industry have recently recognized the Bank of the Philippine Islands as a leader in mobile banking services.

BPI received the Best Mobile Banking in the Philippines award from *The Asian Banker*, as part of its annual Excellence in Retail Financial Services Awards program, held last October 2, 2015, at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel. The award honors the bank with a mobile banking platform that demonstrates the use of the full range of current mobile device technology for financial transactions and services in the most intuitive and secure manner possible.

BPI also received the Best Electronic Delivery Channel award from the Bank Marketing Association of the Philippines. The award recognizes the bank that successfully implemented the most innovative electronic delivery systems and achieved the desired results in terms of usage and acceptance.

According to Carlo Carmelo Gatuslao, vice-president and division head of the BPI electronic channels, BPI has consistently taken the lead in introducing technological innovations in the banking sector, beginning with the automated teller machines in the 1980s, to phone banking in the 1990s, to online banking in the internet age and, more recently, to mobile banking with the increasing ubiquity of smartphones.

From the 600,000 user base in 2014, the BPI mobile banking team has already exceeded its target of 800,000 users with about 1-million downloads from the Google Play Store and another 600,000 downloads on iOS devices. By their estimates, they now have close to 1-million actual users

across platforms, performing a variety of transactions ranging from bank locator services to bills payment and funds transfers. Transactions on the BPI mobile app average about 1.6-million transactions each month, accounting for some PHP 12.6-billion in Peso values.

BPI financial products and services group head Simon Paterno noted that BPI's leadership in mobile banking can be attributed to its commitment in developing features suited to its clients while leveraging the popularity of smartphones and mobile data in the country. "With the BPI Express Mobile app, our clients can easily access their accounts and make financial



BPI officers proudly display their awards (L-R): Vincent Christopher L. Hipol, brand manager for mobile banking; Aristotle G. Guardacasa, channel officer for mobile banking; Frederick M. Faustino, AVP for mobile banking; and Carlo Carmelo S. Gatuslao, VP and head of electronic channels.

transactions, even with the most affordable smartphones," he says.

The Asian Banker is a leading international provider of strategic intelligence on the financial services industry. Its International Excellence in Retail Financial Services program is the most rigorous, prestigious and transparent awards program for consumer banking in the region.

BMAP is an organization of banking institutions that seeks to promote and upgrade the practice of bank marketing in the country. Its members include well-established organizations from banking, telecommunications, and insurance.

WD rolls out My Cloud OS 3; puts control of content into the hands of consumers



WD, a leader in storage solutions, recently launched the third generation My Cloud OS which allow users to get the best of their storage solutions. With the My Cloud operating system 3, you can take your “cloud” with you, access, and transfer files, wherever, via your mobile device.

The redesigned My Cloud OS 3 features an intuitive user interface, and back-up, and sync capabilities that boost the personal cloud NAS offering while retaining the privacy and control unique to personal cloud devices physically located in the home or office.

My Cloud OS 3 also features new photo and video

capabilities via two new user experiences: MyCloud.com, which enables file collaboration, comprehensive access management, and photo and video gallery access; and My Cloud Albums app that enables users to send a link to a common location, or “album,” on the My Cloud to all their friends and family.

“We know our personal cloud customers place the highest value on their personal content and enjoy the peace of mind from backing up PCs, smartphones, and tablets to and centralizing content on their My Cloud systems,” said Jim Welsh, executive vice president and general manager of content solutions business at WD. “They tell us they are confident in the privacy, control and anywhere access we provide them with the My Cloud OS. Now, with My Cloud OS 3, we’ve made users’ management of their digital lives easier than ever before.”

The My Cloud OS 3 also has a new WD Sync feature that enables users to sync data across multiple PCs and notebooks, ensuring that important files are up to date and available to users from almost any device.

WD has also introduced My Cloud Device SDK and My Cloud API which enables developers to build new extensions, features, and capabilities within the My Cloud ecosystem of personal cloud storage devices. The My Cloud Device SDK, based on the Docker open platform technology, allows easy access

and collaboration among developers to create customized experiences. Partners already developing extensions and new features based on the new SDK include Plex and Milestone.

On top of that, WD also rolled out a new version of My Cloud Mirror personal cloud storage devices, featuring two hard drives set to Mirror Mode (RAID 1), ensuring content is stored on one drive and automatically duplicated to a second drive. Out of the box, it will carry the new features announced for My Cloud OS 3, an improved processor, and 512MB RAM.

WD My Cloud OS 3 is now available as a free download on current My Cloud personal cloud storage devices. My Cloud devices supporting the new OS 3 include: My Cloud, My Cloud Mirror, My Cloud Expert Series EX2/EX4, My Cloud Expert Series EX2100/EX4100, and My Cloud Business Series DL2100/DL4100. Customers can also download the new WD My Cloud mobile apps, which are now available on the iTunes and Google Play stores. Access to My Cloud Device SDK and My Cloud API was made available to interested developers last October.

The My Cloud Mirror has a sticker price of PHP 15,990 for 4TB, PHP 20,990 for 6TB, and PHP 25,990 for 8TB and is available at select retailers and distributors nationwide.

Casio opens G-Factory premium store in Greenbelt 5



(from left) Richard Gutierrez, Jasmin Curtis-Smith, and Casio executives Tatsuya Izaki and Atsushi Yamaoka.

Electronics manufacturer Casio Computer Co., Ltd. has opened the country’s first—and only the world’s second—G-Factory Premium store in the second floor of Greenbelt 5, Makati City. The new shop will house the brand’s different watch lines including the G-Shock Gravity

Master, Gulf Master, Mud Master, MRG, and MTG; Baby-G; Oceanus; and Edifice.

“With these latest lines of watches, Casio was out to develop timepieces that are virtually indestructible without sacrificing aesthetics and

style,” said Kikuo Ibe, the founding father of Casio’s G-Shock.

Two of the high-end models—the MRG-G1000 and the MTG-G1000D—boast of automatic timekeeping systems, the former being hybrid solar-powered and the latter being equipped with a GPS Hybrid Wave Ceptor.

Meanwhile, the Gulf Master GWN-1000, Gravity Master GPW-1000T, and Mud Master GWG-1000 are all engineered to last against nature thanks to their extremely tough yet lightweight and comfortable builds.

Lastly, the analog Edifice EQB-510 and ECB-500 allows the wearers to easily check the time of more than 300 cities worldwide across 40 time zones; and the Oceanus OCW-61000 sports Sallaz-polished dual-curved sapphire glass with an anti-reflective coating on both sides for high visibility.

“Anchored on our heritage of quality and reliability, these latest additions to the G-SHOCK line offer our customers more options to decide how a timepiece can best complement their lifestyle and what kind of statement they want to make,” ended Atsushi Yamaoka, general anager of Timepiece Department, Overseas Marketing and Sales Division, Casio Computer Co., Ltd.

ACPI holds Animahenasyon animation festival

The Animation Council of the Philippines (ACPI) last October 15 and 16 held the country's annual Animation Festival and Competition *Animahenasyon* at the SMX Convention Center at SM Aura, Taguig City. The yearly forum gathers the country's amateur and professional artists in celebration of the growing animation industry.

"There is tremendous talent for animation in the Philippines," said Tim Brooke-Hunt, an executive producer and former executive head of children's content at the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. Hunt, as well as Takuya Wada, director of *Lupin*; Josie Trinidad, story artist for the upcoming Disney movie *Zootopia*; and actor and animator Tom Rodriguez, were some of the conference's keynote speakers.

Over 10,000 artists and production specialists are currently working in Philippine-based SME animation studios, helping deliver USD 142-million in revenues. Their ranks are bolstered every year thanks to further accessibility of animation software such as *Toon Boom Harmony*, *TV Paint*, and *Maya*; as well as the collaboration between schools and animation studios to produce highly skilled artists.

With around 90-percent of North American animation outsourced in Asia, the country is expected to get an even bigger chunk of the worldwide animation pie. For 2016, the global animation and gaming market is expected to rake in USD 242.93-billion.

Animahenasyon 2015: the 9th Philippine Animation Festival was part of Design Week, a CITEM activity advocating Philippine creativity and innovation. The yearly gathering is supported by government institutions such as the Department of Science and Technology, Board of Investments, Film Development Council of the Philippines, Center for International Trade and Expositions and Missions, Design Center of the Philippines, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the Tourism Promotions Board. The French Embassy in the Philippines and Japan Foundation also served as key event partners, while SM Retail served as this year's venue sponsor.



AMD Pro A-Series Processors making way to Windows 10 notebooks

AMD's best-ever mobile processors, the Pro A-Series, will be shipping aboard HP, ExactTrak, and Qualcomm Technologies commercial laptops as the main driver behind their Windows 10 operating systems.

"Our new AMD Pro processors enable performance, reliability, and opportunity for today's businesses by giving customers choice and affordability to meet their specific business needs," said David Bennett, corporate vice president and general manager for commercial products at AMD. "We enable IT managers to maintain a secure, stable, and reliable environment, offering unmatched dependability, stability, processor longevity, and an opportunity for richer system configurations."

The Pro A-Series are built specifically for the long-term needs of businesses. They come with a 24-month longevity commitment, 18-month image stability, commercial-grade quality assurance, and extended OEM warranty lasting up to 36 months.

"The new AMD Pro processors combined with Windows 10 provide businesses with more natural and intuitive ways of interacting with your PC, including Cortana, your own digital assistant," said Chris Morrissey, director of business planning



at Microsoft. "Windows 10 Enterprise gives our customers protection against modern security threats with new enterprise-class security features including Device Guard, Enterprise Data Protection, and Windows Hello biometric authentication. Together, we will deliver a secure and premium experience that enables employees to be more productive at work, at home, or on the go."

The processors feature support for the Distributed Management Task Force (DMTF)

industry-standard and Desktop and mobile Architecture for System Hardware (DASH) standards for greater management capabilities; as well as the Security Guardian hardware technology to further increase enterprise data security.

The AMD Pro A-Series mobile processors are now available through online resellers and are currently offered on the HP EliteBook 705 G3 Series PCs, including the HP EliteBook 725, 745, and 755 series.

Smart launches Surf Abroad 550



(from left) Eric Alberto (PLDT EVP and Head of Enterprise Business), Abby Bauca (Smart International Jr. Manager), Tina Mariano (Smart Global Access Group Head), Alex Caeg (Smart SVP for International and Carrier Business), Ruth Ritumalta (Smart International Senior Manager), and Bianca Valerio.

Make the most of your overseas getaways with the bigger and better Surf Abroad 550.

"Nowadays, mobile internet—or the lack of it—can make or break our vacation abroad, what with the many practical mobile apps and valuable information available online from news, weather, navigation, flight schedules, and

with ease, and chat with your loved ones at the end of the day without the worries of skyrocketing bill charges. Initially offered to Smart Postpaid subscribers, this data roaming service pushes convenience further with its automatic registration and network lock feature.

accommodation to must-have apps like *Instagram*, *Facebook* and *Twitter*," said Tina Mariano, global access and international services head at Smart.

For only PHP 550 per day, you can now share your overseas adventures across your social media accounts, Google Translate your way out of a challenging situation, check emails, navigate uncharted routes

Just by simply turning on your mobile data setting, you can freely surf the net wherever you are without the hassles of special codes and registration. Once the service is active, you will receive an SMS notification informing you of your subscription and also get timely updates about its status.

Surf Abroad 550 is also powered by network-lock technology, which automatically steers and locks your phone onto Smart's roaming partner-networks. This feature rids you of the trouble of having to manually select every time.

"So aside from expanding our coverage from 57 countries last year to over 110 countries now, we have also enhanced Surf Abroad 550 to be a lot easier, convenient and totally bill shock-free," Mariano added.

Available for only PHP 550 per day, Smart's Surf Abroad 550 will give users high-speed mobile internet connections in 110 covered countries, valid for one day. Smart has also stated that the service will also be available soon for prepaid subscribers.

Globe Telecom brings Chromecast to the Philippines



Google's Chromecast is a media streaming device that you can plug into High-Definition Multimedia Interface (HDMI) port of one's television at home, and lets users stream smartphone, tablet, or laptop content to

a bigger screen. Compatible with Android devices, tablets, iPhones, iPads, Macs, Windows laptops, and Chromebooks, the Chromecast is now being offered by Globe telecom, bundled with their Home Broadband plans.

"We are excited to be working closely with Google to bring Chromecast to Filipinos who are huge fans of everything entertainment: from movies, TV shows, games, sports, to photos and videos. With Chromecast, our customers get instant access to quality entertainment experience at home as they get to see their favorite content and apps from the small screen to the big screen. Offering Chromecast supports our commitment to enable the Filipino digital lifestyle further as we provide our customers a platform to enjoy entertainment at the comfort of one's home," says Dan Horan, senior advisor for consumer business at Globe.

Globe customers can get the Chromecast for free starting at Globe Home Broadband Plan 1299 with free access to HOOQ as well as across all Home Broadband Plans with free access to HOOQ and *Spotify* or the *NBA League Pass*.

Meanwhile, Platinum Home Broadband customers can avail of the Chromecast for free starting at Plan 3749 to Plan 9999 with free access to HOOQ, *Spotify*, and the *NBA League Pass*.

The Porsche Rush Promo from Petron

Exclusive pre-selling privileges for BPI credit cards

PETRON

THE PORSCHE RUSH

LARGER SCALE TOY CARS (1:24)



*Limited Edition Porsche Toy Cars for only P700 each
with every P500 fuel purchase from Petron.*



Porsche Carrera GT

Porsche 918 Spyder

Now on its fourth offering, oil industry leader Petron Corporation continues to partner with premium and trusted car brand Porsche. For this year, two models are being offered as part of the Petron Collectibles Limited Edition—a Porsche Carrera GT in red, and a Porsche 918 Spyder in blue. These are larger scale 1:24 models, made from high-quality die-cast metal with detailed parts. The doors open to activate features such as alarm sounds with lights, while pressing the hood activates start-up, rev, and acceleration sounds. It is packaged in a 5-side see-thru box, perfect for collectors.

Exclusive to BPI credit card holders, you can be the first to avail of this limited edition Porsche toy car from November 1 to 14, 2015. All you have to do is gas up at a participating Petron station for a minimum fuel purchase of PHP 500 using your BPI credit card. This will allow you to get your Porsche toy car for only PHP 700, charged to your BPI credit card.

Other motorists may also avail of the promo from November 15 to December 15, 2015. For every PHP 500 single or accumulated purchase of Petron Blaze 100, Petron XCS 95, Petron Xtra Advance 93, Petron Super Xtra 91, Petron Diesel Max, and Petron Turbo Diesel, you are entitled to purchase one Porsche toy car for PHP 700.

Don't miss out on this chance to add to your Petron Collectibles, another exciting reward from Petron. Visit www.petron.com or the official Petron Facebook page for full details.



The Lamborghini *Touch* TOY CAR



For every P500 worth of Petron fuel, get a *Lamborghini touch-activated toy car*
for only P250 each at any participating Petron station.
Collect all 5 starting **Nov. 15 - Dec. 15, 2015.**



1:32 or approximately 6 inches long



Lamborghini Aventador LP700-4 • Lamborghini Huracán LP610-4



Lamborghini

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Per DTI FTEB SPD Permit No. 11583 Series of 2015.

FOR GASOLINE AND DIESEL CUSTOMERS

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UP FOR THE CHALLENGE

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